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SANTA COMES TO TOWN!



Father Christmas (and some lovely angels!) visited Bridgend town centre for the switching on of the Christmas lights on Saturday - see more of GLYN EVANS' pictures on page 8.

THE MAN DUBBED 'PICASSO OF THE GARW VALLEY' REALISES DREAM

by TIM CHAPMAN

A FORMER miner who Max Boyce once dubbed 'The Picasso of the Garw Valley' realised his personal dream when he held an exhibition of his work at the Blaengarw Workmen's Hall last week.

Gordon Farmer (75) turned to 'pencil portraiture' late in life as a means of keeping his mind off the pain caused by injuries inflicted in an industrial accident.

His exhibition - 'Face to Face' - which ran over two days, November 27 and 28, was a snapshot of Welsh culture over the last 50 years.

Anthony Hopkins, Ray Gravell, JPR, Stanley Baker, Ruth Jones, Shane Williams, Rob Brydon and Tom Jones jostled with evocative sketches of miners working in cramped tunnels and tight to the coalface.

For good measure,

Gordon also displayed some familiar non-Welsh stars like Michael Caine, Johnny Cash and Michael Jackson, along with his cherished collection of animal portraits.

It is hardly surprising that being brought up in the spectacular Garw Valley, north of Bridgend, Gordon has an affinity with mining, but he had first hand experience of the colliery himself.

"I was born at Bryn Cottages, Pontyrhyl, and I've lived in the Garw Valley all my life.

"When I left school, I did a milk round for a couple of weeks and then went down the Ffaldau Colliery.

"I was about 16 and cutting the coal at the face and shovelling it onto the conveyor belt. I also helped putting up the pit props.

"In those days you had a task to complete miners working in it, you didn't manage it, you didn't get paid."

CONTINUED ON PAGE 4



Gordon Farmer.

Police's drugs discovery after raid on a unit

POLICE in Bridgend arrested three men following a planned operation at an industrial unit in Bridgend.

At around 2pm on Friday, November 28, police officers discovered large quantities of cannabis after raiding a warehouse in Queens Court, Bridgend Industrial Estate.

Inspector Steve Jennings said: "We conducted a drugs raid at a unit in Bridgend Industrial Estate and made three arrests at the scene. A large number of plants were discovered in several separate rooms."

Along with plants, officers seized a large amount of growing equipment including heaters and lighting. Police officers stayed in place over the weekend while specialist teams worked to dismantle the factory and remove the plants.

Detectives say they have seized around 700

cannabis plants which could be worth as much as £750,000.

The three men arrested are on bail until February 26 pending further enquiries.

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Cats Protection Bridgend receives a welcome boost to their kitty!



The cheque was presented to Sue Dobbs by Jessica Moore, MotoNovo marketing executive and Rachel Sharp, MotoNovo marketing manager. Photograph by Mandy Thomas (www.mandythomasphotography.com)

CATS PROTECTION Bridgend has received a welcome boost to the kitty from MotoNovo Finance.

Staff based at the Llanishan office in Cardiff raised the money through their weekly dress down day. The company matched the

money raised to bring the final donation to £750.

Bridgend Adoption Centre received the cash after being nominated by Jessica Moore, a marketing executive with MotoNovo Finance.

Jessica said: "Having recently adopted my two cats from Cats Protection Bridgend and seeing all they do to care and nurture abandoned cats, it was without hesitation

that I nominated them."

Sue Dobbs, centre manager, said: "We are delighted to have been chosen to receive the £750 donation from MotoNovo Finance."

"I would like to say a big thank you to Jessica for nominating us and to MotoNovo and their staff for supporting us."

"We are a charity reliant on donations; the money will now go to help unwanted and abandoned cats whilst they are waiting to find loving homes."

Bridgend Adoption Centre currently has over 100 cats and kittens in care and a further 200 cats on the waiting list to come in for rehoming. Anyone interested in adopting a cat can contact the centre on 01656 724396 or email bridgend@cats.org.uk.

Local MP supports child protection law



THE MP for Bridgend is lending her support to an NSPCC campaign to make it a crime for an adult to send a sexual message to a child.

Madeleine Moon MP is backing the charity's 'Flaw in the Law' campaign, which is calling on the Government to introduce a new offence so that it is always illegal for an adult to intentionally send a sexual message to a child.

The campaign is seeking an amendment to the Serious Crime Bill, which is soon due to receive its Second Reading in the Commons.

The law in this area hasn't kept up with the way that abusers are using the internet to facilitate the abuse of children and the NSPCC is concerned that there is inadequate protection for

children from online abuse.

Existing laws are fragmented and sex offenders are able to exploit the loopholes.

Sex abusers can often get away with effectively 'fishing' for child victims on social networks, mobile apps, chat rooms, and in online gaming environments.

The NSPCC believes the new law would make it easier for police to step in earlier in the grooming process, before abuse escalates.

Madeleine Moon said: "Given the alarming rise in online child abuse, it is very concerning that the current law is unable to adequately protect children. I urge the Government to listen to the NSPCC's concerns and to create a new offence through the Serious Crime Bill so that it is always illegal for an adult to send a sexual message to a child".

Opportunity knocks for older people

PORHCRAWL SHOUT Forum, the local group that speaks out on behalf of the older people of the district, invite topical speakers to their monthly forum meetings at Trinity Church on the first Friday of each month at 2pm.

Tomorrow (December 5) is a special occasion as Sarah Rochira, the Older People's Champion, has agreed to address us at a time when she has just reported on a widespread review of old people's homes inspected throughout Wales over the last 12 months.

In addition, the Commissioner has

produced a new toolkit to help older people make their voices heard.

It is intended to assist people engage with their local authorities, including the ways in which they can influence and challenge decisions.

No doubt the Commissioner will also include in her talk more information on her ongoing review of residential care homes and her views regarding the changes being introduced in the provision of care in the home that is of concern to us all.

In the spirit of Christmas, coffee and mince pies will be available from 1pm prior to the meeting starting at 2pm. All are welcome.

Clive Mort

BRIDGEND county borough's top 10 traders are celebrating after being named the best in the business at the 2014 Bridgend Retail Awards.

A market stall butcher, a jewellery store and a specialist pet shop were among the winners at a glamorous awards ceremony in Porthcawl's Grand Pavilion on Friday, November 21.

The awards, which are run annually by Bridgend County Borough Council (BCBC) and Bridge FM, are aimed at recognising and celebrating retail excellence among local businesses.

Over 6,300 people voted, which was described as "particularly pleasing" by council leader Mel Nott.

The winners were: Customer Service Award sponsored by Engage Training at Bridgend College - Regal Travel.

Independent Retailer Award sponsored by

Watts and Morgan Estate Agents - Lizzi Gifts.

Market Stall Award sponsored by The Rhiw Shopping Centre - Andrews Family Butchers.

National Retailer Award sponsored by Bridgend Business Against Crime - Greggs.

Fabulous Food Award sponsored by Just Perfect Catering and Events - Poco Poco.

Hair and Beauty Award sponsored by Gilmor Hair and Beauty. Bridgend - Capelli Salons.

Professional / Service Industry Award sponsored by Swesky Bridal Showroom and Fine Jeweller - Porters Estate Agents.

Evening Economy Award presented by BCBC - The Wyndham Arms.

Specialist Retailer Award sponsored by Wyndham Plastics and Glass - Bridgend Reptiles.



Staff from Lizzi Gifts in Bridgend, which won the Independent Retailer Award.

TOP TEN TRADERS TRIUMPH IN LOCAL RETAIL AWARDS

Shooting Star Award presented by Bridge FM - Iced Cake Parlour.

Council Leader Mel Nott said: "All of the traders did exceptionally well to be selected as finalists in these awards, and I would like to extend my warmest congratulations to them."

"It was particularly pleasing this year to see the number of businesses that entered the awards, and the number of people who took part in the online vote."

"This goes to show that even in times of austerity, the public of Bridgend county borough still value their local high street shops and want to see them thrive."

"On behalf of the council, I'd like to say a big well done to everyone who took part, and to wish all traders a prosperous festive period."

Winter tips for Porthcawl marina users

THIS winter will be the first since Porthcawl Marina underwent a multi-million-pound transformation, and Bridgend County Borough Council (BCBC) has issued some tips for boat owners to follow during the season.

After it re-opened in April, the harbour is proving to be a welcome attraction for locals and visitors.

The marina has 70 moorings for a mix of leisure, commercial and visiting craft, and all berths are fully allocated.

The council's harbourmaster, Sean Warrington, has issued the following advice for marina users during the winter period:

Batteries: Keep batteries topped up with distilled water and place a trickle charger on board to prevent any possible damage to batteries as a result of cold weather.

Engine: Place a small heater in your engine bay to prevent any damage to your engine in frosty conditions.

Fuel: Keep diesel tanks full to prevent any condensation in the tanks to minimise the risk of 'diesel bug'.

Water tanks: Drain the water tanks to prevent water becoming stagnant. Ropes and warps: Make sure the boat is secure and maybe think about adding extra ropes to ensure that the boat doesn't move about too much.

Heater: Place a low consumption heater inside the boat to keep the air circulating.

Who wants to build what and where?

Mrs Jeannie Hansworth Lamb - The Mudpatch, 8 Charles Avenue, Pencoed - Reduce height of Oak tree by 30 per cent and lowest north-eastern branch to major side lateral and fell second tree.

Mr Huw Jones - Brynffrwd, Brynffrwd - 30 per cent crown reduction and removal of ivy of oak tree and remove conifer trees.

BCBC - Property Section - Mynydd Cynffig Infant School, Commercial Street, Kenfig Hill - Remove branch tips and slender stems of Ash tree.

Adrian Miles - 173 Caerau Road, Maesteg - Change of use from Post Office to hair salon and cafe.

Mr and Mrs T Bennett - 1 Hutchwns Close, Porthcawl - Demolish conservatory and erect single storey side and rear extensions and dormer, convert loft and Velux lights to front and side.

Mr John Davies - 1 South View off Lower Adare Street, Pontycymmer - Construction of detached domestic garage.

Mr Keith Austin - 1 Macgregor Row, Maesteg - Dropped kerb to property.

South Wales Wood Recycling Ltd - Former Brynccethin Nurseries and South Wales Wood Recycling, Pant Heol y Cyw - Change of use of former nursery and residential building to vehicle storage, new buildings, new access and associated works.

Mr S Johns - 11b The Retreat, Porthcawl - Amended house design to include porch (retrospective).

MBNL - Junction of Fulmar Road and Nottage Road, Porthcawl - Install Pogona cabinet (1230mm x 400mm x 1032mm), replace 10m monopole with 9.7m monopole and associated works.

HIGH TIDE TIMES (UNTIL DECEMBER 11)

The high tides listed in this week's GEM are those in Porthcawl. It should be remembered that along the coast, high tide times will vary.

For instance, in Barry, the high point will be 20 - 25 minutes later.

DATE	Time	Ht	Time	Ht
	AM	M	PM	M
04 Thur	04.10	9.3	16.39	9.4
05 Fri	05.09	9.7	17.32	9.8
06 Sat	05.55	9.9	18.17	9.9
07 Sun	06.36	9.8	18.59	9.7
08 Mon	07.17	9.8	19.38	9.7
09 Tues	07.54	9.6	20.14	9.5
10 Wed	08.29	9.4	20.51	9.2
11 Thur	09.05	9.1	21.24	8.9

While The GEM makes every effort to check the accuracy of tide tables, we recommend that anyone putting out to sea, or walking in an area where they could be cut off, should check with a tide table specific to their location.

We abide by the code of practice upheld by the Independent Press Standards Organisation (IPSO). This contains provisions for issues such as accuracy.

If you have a complaint, write to us at the address below, left, or call editorial manager Don John on 01446 774484. All complaints will be fully investigated. If you are not satisfied with the outcome, you may wish to contact IPSO c/o Halton House, 20-23 High Holborn, London EC1N 2JD. Website: www.ipso.co.uk. Tel: 0300 123 2220. E-Mail: complaints@ipso.co.uk. Enquiries: inquiries@ipso.co.uk.

MAYOR IS LOOKING FOR INSPIRING CITIZENS

AS the year comes to a close, the Mayor of Bridgend County Borough is asking local residents to put forward their nominations of individuals, groups or businesses who are worthy of a Mayor's Citizenship Award.

The Mayor of Bridgend County Borough, Coun Gary Thomas, said: "Each year, The Mayor's Citizenship Awards give us a wonderful chance to tell the rest of the county borough about the amazing things that local people do."

"Last year's winners



Mayor of Bridgend County Borough, Coun Gary Thomas.

included a number of deserving volunteers who made a significant and positive impact in local communities, as well as some incredible fundraisers who raised

thousands of pounds for good causes. I would invite as many people as possible to send in their nominations and reward our local heroes."

Organised by BCBC, the awards are open to people who live in the county borough, as well as local groups and businesses based locally. Please visit the Mayor's pages at www.bridgend.gov.uk to download a nomination form and find out more about the awards.

The deadline for nominations is Friday, January 30, and the award winners will be honoured at an event hosted by the Mayor at the Civic Offices in Bridgend in March 2015.

Sainsbury's Bridgend delighted to win Poppy Appeal award



Sainsbury's store Bridgend receives the Poppy Appeal award.

THE Bridgend Poppy Appeal collection competition between all the major stores in Bridgend has been won by Sainsbury's with £11,631.56.

This is the largest single store collection recorded in Bridgend.

The store deputy manager Gemma Fewings said: "We are absolutely delighted to have been able to support the Poppy Appeal again this year and although as a store, we have supported it for many more years than I can count, this is a very special year and a

most poignant one being the centenary year of World War One.

"The sum raised is huge and the volunteers who stand in our store collecting over the 10 days are to be congratulated."

The Bridgend County Borough Mayor, Coun Gary Thomas who awarded Gemma the poppy certificate said: "The chairman of the branch, Major Wayne Morgan and I, felt it was only right that we should celebrate this effort by awarding a certificate of merit to the store and its staff for giving every assistance to the poppy appeal and those

volunteers who work so hard in raising this money."

Among those at the presentation were Bridgend branch Royal British Legion secretary Andrew Reekie, Sainsbury's store manager Gemma Fewings, head of HR Melonie Baldwin, community liaison Jackie Thomas, L/cpl Aimee Bartle, Cdt James Hodgkiss, Cdt Iwan Gerrard-Gates, Cpl Gareth Kirk, Cdt Connor Myall, Officer Instructor Neil Carter, PI Vicky Bartle, PI Colin Bartle, Alan Rees, Alan Clift, Val Seward, Nadin Johnstone, and RJ Johnstone, WBM

MP raises concerns over hunger in debate

OGMORE MP, and the rest of the Huw Irranca-Davies, has used a debate in Parliament to call for an end to hunger in his constituency

exponential growth in the use and number of foodbanks showed that not enough was being done to ensure everyone is able to feed themselves and their families.

In the past year, the Trussell Trust provided over 913,000 three day emergency food allocations, a 22-fold increase on previous years.

In the Bridgend area over 7,000 people went to foodbanks in 2013, with the number expected to be much higher this year.

Speaking after the debate Mr Irranca-Davies said: "While a focus on food production is always to be welcomed, the missing aspect of the Government's strategy is can people actually afford enough food? In Ogmore we have seen people's finances stretched more and more as prices rise and wages don't."

"I know from speaking to my constituents and visiting foodbanks that it is getting tougher each year for people to feed their families. Many parents are being forced to skip meals themselves to feed their children. This has got to stop."

BRIDGEND County Borough Council (BCBC) has welcomed the news that The Senior Open Championship Presented by Rolex will return to the Royal Porthcawl Golf Club in the summer of 2017.

Council Leader Mel Nott OBE said: "We were extremely proud that the first Major golf tournament ever to be played in Wales was hosted in Bridgend county borough, and it is fantastic news that the Senior Open will be returning to Royal Porthcawl in 2017."

The Welsh Government reached an agreement with the European Senior Tour and The R&A for three Senior Open Championships to be played in Wales between 2014 and 2024, and the first championship saw more than 43,000 spectators watch Bernhard Langer win the title.

Karl Schmidtknecht, the chair of the Bridgend Tourism Association, said: "The 2014 Senior Open was fantastic for local tourism, local businesses and the economy as a whole. This news is very welcome and we look forward to working closely with the European Senior Tour."

Bridgend County Borough Council, Royal Porthcawl Golf Club and the Welsh Government to successfully deliver the best of what the area has to offer and another fantastic event in Porthcawl in 2017."

For more information, contact Communications Officer Bob Phillips on 01656 643663; bob.phillips@bridgend.gov.uk; www.bridgend.gov.uk.

Senior Open golf to return to Porthcawl

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Maesteg Town Council announces Christmas festivities

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Saturday 10am - 6pm;

Sunday 10am - 4pm.
A charge of £1.50 per 20-minute session.
Block bookings - contact Maesteg Town Council on 732631.

Santa's Grotto - Market Square from December 1 until Christmas Eve.

December 6, 10am-1pm: Christmas fayre in Maesteg Town Hall;
10.30am: blessing of the Nativity crib (Council of

Churches);
11.30am: Judging of the town shop window display; 2pm-4.30pm: Town centre entertainment - DJ and jazz bands; 3.45pm - 4.30pm: Parade of floats around the town;
4.30pm: Switch-on of Christmas lights followed by firework display over the town;
5pm onwards: Dance display/disco/Santa's Grotto/bar and light refreshments in the Town Hall.

December 13: Christmas Market - Market Square.

December 20: Christmas Nativity play and carol singing - Market Square.

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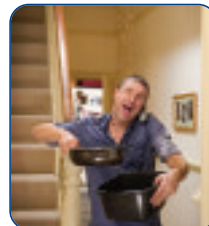
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Coffee morning

A COFFEE morning will be held at Tabernacl Hall, Derwen Road, Bridgend on Thursday, December 11, from 10am to 12.30pm.

Admission will be £2 including a mince pie and cup of tea/coffee. There will be stalls, including crafts and cards, and proceeds will be donated to The Stroke Association.

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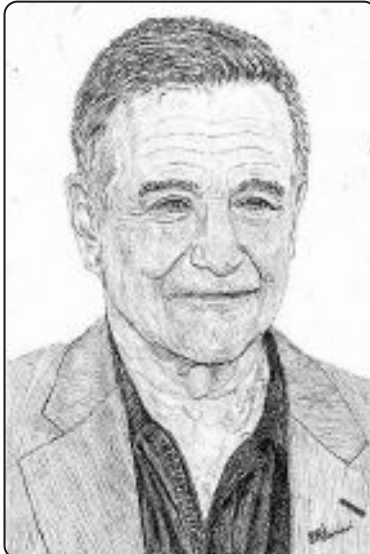
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GORDON IMMORTALISES WELSH CULTURE AND BRINGS POPULAR STARS TO LIFE!



CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

The most difficult time for him was when he was up in the early hours of the morning looking after his daughter, then having to do a shift at the mine.

"I wasn't getting the sleep and it started wearing me down. I had a mate called Mervyn who helped me through it. We looked after each other."

Gordon stayed for 12 years – and has all the time in the world for men who managed a lifetime's labour down the mine.

"It was so hard. I was lucky. A manager tipped the wink and said: 'Get out while you can'. He gave me a reference and I went to work for a company preparing the metal for wheelchairs."

He became involved in the Labour movement and took on the role of convenor and wasn't shy to call for industrial action if he thought it was justified.

When Norman Tebbit visited the company, the personnel officer – ex-Army! – warned Gordon: "I'm expecting you to behave, Gordon!"

"I told Norman Tebbit that yes, production had to get done, but I was proud of being a worker and standing up for their rights."

Gordon said he has become disillusioned with modern politics and parties because of the loss of employment rights in recent years.

He went on to work as a security guard in local quarries, but in 1999 his life changed forever.

"It was a really blowy day and a gust of wind lifted a huge metal sign which hit me from behind. I had a badly injured right leg – they thought I would lose it, but managed to save it."

"I had problems with my back and neck too. It really shook my body up."

Gordon was forced to retire and confront the dilemma of what he was going to do with the rest of his life. The consolation came in the form of pencil and paper. He found that immersion in his new craft kept his mind off the pain caused by his injuries.

"I bought a book on drawing and I practised and practised. I'd concentrate on one feature at a time – drawing is sometimes like a jigsaw."

"I must have filled a dozen black bags with screwed-up paper until I felt I was making progress."

Over the years his reputation as a local artist has grown and he was thrilled when he had the opportunity to present Max Boyce with a portrait.

"He shook my hand and said: 'You're the Picasso of the Garw Valley!'"

Although Gordon is in his mid-seventies and not in the best of health, his enthusiasm knows no limits.

He's been a big fan of the TV show 'Gavin and Stacey', doing portraits of all the stars, and would one day like to take his exhibition to the show's spiritual home in Barry.

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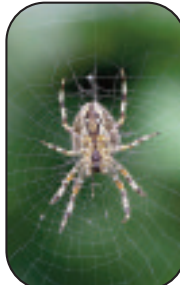
STRIKING IMAGES FEATURE AT PHOTO SOCIETY'S EVENT



Martyn Derbyshire receives the 'print section' award.



Digital winner, Trevor Owen.



'Give Me a Cwtch'.



King of the road.

PYLE & Porthcawl Photographic Society held their annual 'Club Competition One' on Thursday, November 27 at the Glamorgan Holiday Hotel in Porthcawl.

The competition was split into two sections, one for prints and one for digital images, with a trophy for each. Each member could enter up to two images into each competition.

Harry Gardiner expertly judged both competitions, and not only awarded the points, but also provided an excellent critique on each image.

In the print section, there were two prints that achieved maximum points (20). 'King of the Road' by Dave Jones and 'Give me a Cwtch' by Martyn Derbyshire. The eventual winner was Martyn Derbyshire.

There were no prints with 19 points, but 18

points were awarded to prints by Heather Roper, Trevor Owen and Glyn Edmunds.

In the digital section there were three images that achieved maximum points, 'A wet Coal Tit' by Geoff Baker, 'Lily' by Trevor Owen and 'Morris' by Richard Craze. The eventual winner was Trevor Owen; 19 points were awarded to images by Glyn Edmunds, Robert Dorr and Trevor Owen. There were also six images that scored 18 points!

Congratulations to Martyn and Trevor for winning the competitions and a big thank you to all who took part for making it such an interesting and entertaining evening.

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Bows at the ready for cadets!



CADETS from 2117 Air Cadets at HMS (Kenfig Hill) Squadron Cambria near Barry. RAF Air Cadets joined cadets from No1 Welsh Wing and fellow Sea Cadets at an archery training day organised by 372 (Barry) Squadron RAF

shooting a recurve bow bare back style (which means with no sights) with the day ending in a simple inter service competition.

All who attended the day are looking forward to their next session. Another string to add to their sporting bow for Kenfig Hill RAF Air Cadets!

Lindsay Thomas



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'Digital heritage station' at museum

Porthcawl Museum and Historical Society has been accepted as a Digital Heritage Station for a Welsh national website.

The People's Collection Wales is a website full of fascinating photographs, sound recordings, documents, videos and stories about the history and heritage of Wales and its people – the first of its kind in Wales.

People's Collection Wales draws together the digital collections of the main heritage institutions in Wales, alongside content from smaller museums, archives and libraries, and is a place where you can share your story of Wales.

It provides quick and easy access to the rich heritage of Wales and allows people to contribute their own content to enhance the variety on the site and make sure that the history of their area is told.

Porthcawl Museum is now a digital heritage station, which means that it can host a variety of digital heritage activities.

Facilities available will include a scanner and a laptop for digitising material. At Porthcawl museum

trained staff will be available every Friday, from December 5 (other dates and times will be announced shortly).

Local residents can bring photographs or documents to the museum and trained staff will help establish the correct copyright before scanning and preparing an image or document for uploading to the site.

Everyone has some piece of the jigsaw which tells the story of Wales, whether it's a comment on a photograph which has sparked a memory; or a photograph, story, letter, diary, drawing, postcard, recording (film or sound), poem or

search the People's Collection Wales website and follow our progress: simply type in Porthcawl Museum into the search box to see our collection to date at:

www.peoplescollectionwales.co.uk

David Swidenbank

Santa comes to Porthcawl

SANTA paid his first visit to his John Street, Porthcawl grotto on Saturday and welcomed lots of young friends, each of whom had a chat with him and left with a lovely gift.

He will be in his grotto in the Y Centre every Saturday up to Christmas, courtesy of the Porthcawl Lions, and looks forward to meeting many more young friends. Entrance is £3 per child.



PORTHCAWL JUNIOR RUGBY ROUND-UP

THE Porthcawl under-15s drew 19-19 with Bridgend Sports, while the under-12s beat Bryncethin 15-12; their next game is on December 5 against Llantwit Fardre at South Road, kick off 6.30pm.

The under-10s defeated Bryncethin 60-20, with tries from Stefan Yardley (3), Luke Roberts (2), Josh Woodbridge (2), Rhys Tunnadine (2), Teejay Vickery (2) and Will Jarman.

PORTHCAWL RFC UNDER-9s 8 BRYNCETHIN 7
With our numbers badly depleted the previous week by illness, it was no great surprise that our visitors were struggling with numbers today, six in total.

While we had good numbers ourselves, six-a-side was not ideal, but if a game was to be played this was as good as it was going to get.

We won the toss, kicked off and scored – easy as that. Bryncethin kept coming back at us with some very good individual play but never really threatened our measured offence in the first 10 minutes.

The second 10

minutes seemed to run away from Porthcawl. The team struggled with possession and didn't tackle too well, allowing Bryncethin to go in after a good session 5-7 up, scoring almost at will.

Things had to change as Porthcawl were in danger of being overrun by their opponents, turning a useful lead into a deficit.

Now the problem with playing with six players and not 10 is simple and it was there for all to see, as the balance was just not there.

Ironically this is the exact opposite problem the team faced last week.

The last 10 minutes saw Porthcawl step up and play – determined running returned, tackling was restored with passes being completed in the offload.

Three tries scored without reply overtook Bryncethin, who were out on their feet having covered every blade of grass between them for 30 minutes, 8-7 the final score.

The positives were Matthew Davidson's huge work rate, rewarded with four blistering tries, good approach play down the middle of the park and keeping possession for long periods of play; however, there are lots of things to correct and refresh.

Captain's comment: "Matthew was brilliant

today with four impressive tries. We should have won easily today but didn't."

Try scorers: Matthew (4), Sam, Rory, Jac B, Grace.

PORTHCAWL UNDER-8S 8 BRYNCETHIN 16

It was a bad day at the office and after two weeks of really stepping up the skill level today Porthcawl were not in the game.

The team were slow in both attack and defence, normally a strength, with the odd glimmer of skill, including some well worked training moves creating tries and a few players stepping up their tag count.

Game one 4-9, game two 4-7; top taggers Dewi (6), followed by Lex (5), Oscar, Theo, Taylor (all 4), Thomas, Zane (both 3), Matt (2), and Dylan, Dexter, Ryan, Sam and Piers (all one).

Tries by Ryan (3, one for us and two for Bryn), Dewi (2), Theo (2), Dexter, Lex and Taylor.

RH The under-7s were defeated 11-8 by Bryncethin, with James Hodges and Will Evans picking up the player awards.

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Archbishop appoints new canons

A CHURCH officer who advises the bishops on social policies and a highly regarded cleric in Bridgend are being honoured for their work by the Archbishop of Wales.

The Rev Carol Wardman is to be made a Metropolitan Canon and the Rev Michael Komor is to be installed as a Canon at Llandaff Cathedral.

Rev Carol Wardman liaises between the bishops and other organisations, such as the Welsh and UK governments, charities and community groups in her role as Bishops' Adviser for Church and Society. The Archbishop, Dr Barry Morgan, who is also the Bishop of Llandaff said: "Carol has proved to be an excellent Bishop's Adviser on church and society. She brings her acute mind to bear on contemporary issues facing the church with deep theological insight."

The Rev Michael Komor is to become a member of Llandaff Cathedral Chapter. Michael has been Rector of Coity, Nolton and Brackla since 2005. In July, the Benefice was expanded to include the new parish of Coychurch.

He has been the Diocesan webmaster and IT adviser since 2000 and secretary of the Diocesan Conference, secretary to the Board of Nomination and secretary to the Diocesan Standing Committee since 2010. He has represented the Diocese on the Church in Wales' Electoral College since 2007.

He was Area Dean of Bridgend between 2004 and 2010 and Vicar of Ewenny and St Brides from 2000 to 2005. He was ordained in 1986 – serving curacies in Mountain Ash and Llantwit Major before spending nine years as team vicar in the Rectorial Benefice of Llantwit Major.

As a Canon of the Cathedral, Mr Komor will preach there a few times a year and become a member of the Cathedral Chapter, which oversees the running of the cathedral.

"I'm delighted to have been asked – it's exciting but scary – and I'm looking forward to the challenges this new role will bring," said Mr Komor.

The Archbishop, Dr Barry Morgan, said: "Michael Komor has served all his ministry in the Llandaff Diocese. He is highly regarded by his



Mike Komor.

colleagues and has been responsible for training many curates."

Both Mrs Wardman and Mr Komor will be installed as Canons at Llandaff Cathedral during choral Evensong on Sunday, December 14, at 3.30pm.

TWO MEN ATTACKED

POLICE in Porthcawl have launched an appeal after two men were assaulted in the town during the early hours of Sunday, November 16.

The victims, aged 46 and 49, were walking from the Pier Hotel through Porthcawl to John Street at around 3am when it is understood they intervened in a verbal altercation between two men and a group of women. The two victims then continued on their walk.

As the victims walked past the Royal Oak they were assaulted by the same two men they had seen earlier. The suspects then made off

down South Road in the direction of Nottage Village.

Both of the victims were treated for facial injuries sustained in the attack.

The suspects are described as being in their 30s, around 5ft 9in tall and of stocky build. Detectives are appealing for any witnesses, or anyone with information to get in touch by calling 101 and quoting reference number 1400428830. Alternatively Crimestoppers can be contacted anonymously on 0800 555 111 or via their website www.crimestoppers-uk.org/give-information.

Theatre students' support



ALL kinds of 'Superhero' were at Stagecoach Theatre Arts Bridgend and Cowbridge recently, as students and teachers dressed up to raise money for Noah's Ark

Children's Hospital Appeal.

The fundraising superheroes raised a grand total of £575.65 for the charity. Stagecoach principal Helene Reynolds commented: "We are delighted to support this

wonderful charity and thrilled to have raised so much for them. Quite a few of our students have received treatment at the hospital, and we are pleased to be able to support their work in this way."

The charity was nominated by 12-year-

old Morwenna Brown, currently undergoing cancer treatment at the hospital.

"To all of us at Stagecoach, Morwenna is a true 'Superhero' as she battles her illness with such strength and determination. She has been a student for nearly 10 years, and alongside her weekly drama, dance and singing classes, she is also a talented member of the 'Performance' troupe."

"On December 7, she will be performing with the troupe at the Shaftesbury Theatre in London's West End! She really is an exceptional and inspirational young lady."

Morwenna and some fellow students are pictured with the cheque that will be presented to the Noah's Ark Children's Hospital appeal.

Police appeal after petrol bombs thrown

POLICE are investigating a petrol bomb attack at a house in Cefn Glas, Bridgend.

Two devices were thrown at a property in Shakespeare Avenue, Cefn Glas, Bridgend around 8.15pm on Friday, November 21. The residents were home at the time of the incident but no one was hurt.

DS Chris Warner said: "Around 8.15pm, two petrol bombs appear to have been thrown towards the front of the property and minor damage was caused to a caravan parked outside.

Fragments of both petrol bombs were discovered on the driveway of the property and these have been taken away for further forensic examinations."

South Wales Police are appealing for witnesses to the attack to come forward by ringing 101 quoting reference number 1400436246. Alternatively Crimestoppers can be contacted anonymously on 0800 555 111 or via their website www.crimestoppers-uk.org/give-information.

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Rebecca will be at Brackla Community Centre, 1 Whitethorn Drive, Bridgend CF31 2PQ on the date listed below:

Monday 08 December 10am - 4.30pm

No appointment is necessary, we can also arrange free telephone consultations and home visits. Contact:

Rebecca Bennett

T: 01656 838543

E: rebecca.bennett@hughjames.com

W: www.hughjames.com/medneg



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Bridgend's Christmas event brings large crowds (and a snowstorm) to town centre

PHOTOGRAPHS by GLYN EVANS

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BRIDGEND'S Christmas event attracted the crowds to the town centre to see the reindeer – and there was even a snowstorm laid on later in the day!

There was entertainment all afternoon, culminating in the switching-on of the Christmas lights.

The Mayor of Bridgend, Coun Bob Burns, told The GEM that the event had gone really well, and he said he was delighted by the number of people who had stayed on in town to see the lights go on!



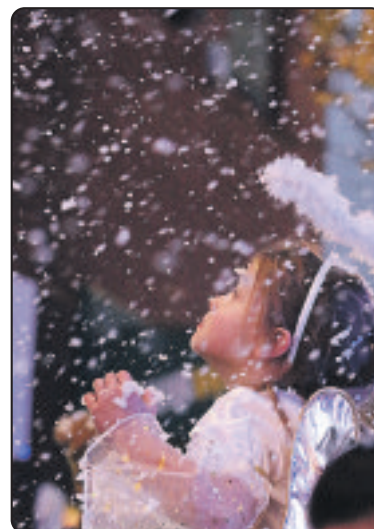
The Mayor and Mayoress of Bridgend, Coun Bob and Diane Burns.



Santa and his reindeer led the procession through the town.



*ABOVE and BELOW:
A snow machine fascinated the children!*



AIR AMBULANCE'S FUW CHEQUE



Lee Pritchard hands the £1,041 cheque to Catrin Hall (centre) as Lorraine Howells proudly looks on.

A CHEQUE for just over £1,000 from the proceeds of a 'wooden horse race night' at Lorraine Howells' Rhymney farm has been presented to Wales Air Ambulance.

Lorraine is a Glamorganshire county member of Farmers' Union of Wales.

The £1,041 cheque was handed to Wales Air Ambulance fund-raising coordinator Catrin Hall by Lee Pritchard who works for Miss Howells at Cwm Carno Farm and carried out much of the organisation for the race night.

He felt the air

ambulance was an essential service for providing lifesaving treatment to injured people in rural areas, such as farmers.

Catrin thanked the FUW for the kind donation and explained that the amount donated was the cost of one helicopter trip which, more than likely, will save someone's life.

FUW Glamorganshire county executive officer Rachel Saunders said the presentation took place when members enjoyed a quiz hosted by Lorraine, which also raised over £200 for the union's Tŷ Hafan and Tŷ Gobaith children's hospices charity fund.

Concerns beach lifesaving budget is under threat

BRIDGEND County Borough Council is faced with making savings of £50m over the next four years.

In its recent budget consultation a potential saving of £23,000 was identified by shortening the lifeguard season and beach cover of local authority paid lifeguard patrols.

The club captain of Rest Bay Lifeguard Club Chris Page said: "As a voluntary club we have serious concerns that BCBC is considering cutting their beach lifeguarding budget."

"Our club members volunteer alongside the BCBC paid lifeguards and we have a very good working relationship."

"All the rescue equipment at

Rest Bay belongs to our club but we make it available for the use of BCBC lifeguards at no cost.

"In the last 10 years we have seen a huge increase in the number of water users at Rest Bay. This is down to the beach winning the Blue Flag award year after year, the availability of cheap wetsuits and equipment, surf prediction websites and webcams."

"Rest Bay is the closest surf beach in drive time to London, Bristol and Birmingham and we get large numbers of day trip surfers travelling from these areas."

"Porthcawl's beaches have the second largest tidal range in the world, resulting in dangerous fast-moving currents. If the BCBC lifeguard cover is reduced it really concerns us how many people

could potentially get into difficulties with no lifeguards there to prevent it or rescue them."

"The nearest lifeboat takes around 15 to 20 minutes to arrive on scene at Rest Bay from receiving a 999 call. Lifeguards also deal with first aid and casualty care in the first instance, with many of the BCBC lifeguards trained to Welsh Ambulance First Responder level by Surf Lifesaving Wales, they also undertake missing person searches finding numerous lost children every year."

"In 2014 the BCBC and club volunteer lifeguards at Rest Bay were particularly busy due to changes to the beach from winter storms creating dangerous conditions and strong currents. We realise that BCBC is faced with

making difficult decisions but we hope when cabinet makes their decision they put public safety first. With the right combination of conditions Rest Bay can be very dangerous."

Hugh Murray of Porthcawl Surf School added: "The local authority needs to be serious about tourism and how much money the surf industry brings to the town. Rather than looking to cut lifeguard cover they should be looking to increase the lifeguard season and cover, particularly at Rest Bay."

To find further info on how to stay safe at Rest Bay during the winter months when no lifeguards patrol visit: Facebook.com/restbay.

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Recycling and waste calendars go online

FROM December 2014 paper recycling and waste calendars will be replaced by online e-calendars, available via the Vale Council's website. The calendars will go live on Thursday, December 4.

Residents will be able to enter their postcode online to see the dates of all collections in their area.

Black and white paper copies of the calendars will also be available on request for those with no

access to the internet by calling CIV on 01446 700111.

The change will see estimated savings for the council of £24,000. This cost reflects the production, printing and delivery of the calendars to every residential property in the Vale.

Director of visible services, Miles Punter, said: "To ensure we can continue to provide an efficient and cost effective service to residents, our waste management team is in the process of reviewing the current collection

arrangements using electronic vehicle tracking data. This data will allow us to increase the efficiency of our collections and to reduce the numbers of vehicles we use.

"Inevitably this will have an impact on some if not all collection days, but will result in significant savings, which will assist in protecting front-line service delivery at this difficult time financially for all councils.

"We will have details of the new collection arrangements available in the next couple of months and will inform all residents of the new arrangements as soon as they become available."

Current black bag and recycling collections days will remain the same in the meantime. The garden waste service will revert to a 'ring and request' service from December 1, 2014 and February 27, 2015.

TENOVUS CHRISTMAS COFFEE MORNING

Tenovus Christmas coffee morning at Romilly Bowls Club, Wednesday, December 10; 10am until 12 noon. Stalls and raffles, entry by ticket or pay at the door £2 per person.

Ty Hafan lottery draw winners

THE following are winning numbers in the Ty Hafan Crackerjack pot lottery draw number D855:

- £2,000: 857517.
- The rollover, which now stands at £6,000 was not won this week.
- £10: 887723, 399519, 577640, 699660, 374697, 477008, 859242, 980962, 469354, 876337, 441482, 791118, 810316, 607370, 997073, 595143, 667521, 370910, 000317, 001125, 405411.
- £5: 468581, 379550, 799884, 525521, 403783, 761911, 116272, 302772, 335968, 703319,

422068, 821371, 238906, 162757, 145678, 895892, 712858, 309442, 790734, 782443, 639359, 129577, 343944, 219617, 976061, 386981, 306502, 830925, 543414, 414354, 626163, 614603, 889749, 632426, 997014, 661330, 586541, 959962, 768879, 177539, 436884, 333743, 615491, 153387, 623359, 293384, 557180, 164354, 769739, 572016, 320358, 141582, 602851, 588651, 000991, 000296, 000685, 001000, 000668.

The GEM cannot be held responsible for any errors or omissions contained in the above.

For lottery information please telephone 029 2053 2300.



The Trickle Box team at the Market Maker finals.

Barry ladies feature in award-winning entrepreneurial team

A TEAM of budding entrepreneurs from Cardiff and Vale College are the most enterprising students in the UK - having been crowned winner of 'Market Maker 2014', triumphing at the national final of the student enterprise competition.

It marks the second time that a team from the college's hair, beauty and complementary therapies department has won the UK-wide competition.

The CAVC team came up with 'Trickle Box' - a range of bespoke and popular character kit boxes, featuring all the essential make-up and accessories required to create any fancy dress costume.

The four hair and beauty students who made up the team have won a trip to New York where they will pitch for investment.

Involving more than 1,300 students in 320 teams from across 16 further education colleges, Market Maker is one of the UK's largest student

enterprise competitions. Trickle Box fought off stiff competition from College of North West London's team Full Capacity and The Charity Wood Working Company from Cambridge Regional College, who came in second and third place respectively.

Reflecting on the experience, Tickle Box's chief executive, 28-year-old Kayleigh Fyfe from Barry said: "This was an absolutely amazing opportunity. The atmosphere at the IoD was incredible. The competition has helped to make my dream come true, it really was an invaluable experience."

The team's financial director, Ellie Griffith, (19) also from Barry, added: "My confidence has been boosted immeasurably by getting involved in this competition. The opportunity to participate in developing a business idea and getting to pitch in front of successful business people at the IoD has given me a life changing experience. Every aspect of the competition has empowered me beyond expectation."

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Mrs S Smith

Chris & Doug Hall

Mr J Hall

David Burr

Mrs J Thorpe

Work on Five Mile Lane to start in 2016

REGIONAL AM, Andrew RT Davies, has sought clarification from the Welsh Government over its plans for Five Mile Lane following safety concerns raised in The GEM by readers.

The Welsh Government has now said work upgrading Five Mile Lane may not get under way until 2016, with the scheme expected to cost more than £25 million.

However, details of the plans remain sketchy with advanced

design work only expected to start at some point "before the end of 2015".

The news emerged in a written assembly question by Andrew RT Davies to Economy Minister Edwina Hart.

Mr Davies said: "It is disappointing that work will not get under way until 2016 on improvements to this stretch of road in the Vale."

"However, that does give the council and Welsh Government an opportunity to conduct a meaningful consultation process with the public."

"It is odd, however, that such a

large budget has been made available for the project when the public remains in the dark over whether the scheme will lead to an entirely new road, or just an upgrade to the existing route.

"I believe that residents and road users support the principle of improving this dreadful piece of road. However, it is far from clear whether this actually calls for a completely new road."

"Either way, the public want and deserve an opportunity to have their say and it is important that the Minister brings forward detailed proposals for local consideration."

AUTHOR SIGNS COPIES OF THE APOSTATE IN THE COUNTY LIBRARY

RIGHT:
Petros Makris was at Barry Library last week publicising his new book, *The Apostate*.

AUTHOR Petros Makris held a book-signing at Barry's main library last week.

The title of his new book is *The Apostate*, a modern day, fast-moving thriller.

Petros said: "It's an imaginative and inspiring thriller that addresses contemporary issues."

"In it the Everests, a wealthy American couple, decide to have their children conceived and raised to a specified age at Parenting4U in Manila, and a terrifying chain of events occurs that will haunt them forever."

"Twenty-seven years later a young, handsome,

blue-eyed Afghan man named Sami is in New York on important business. Suddenly he is diverted by his business partner to Geneva, because something momentous has been discovered.

"Sami finds the revelations earth-shattering. But more importantly, his life is now in grave danger as his old foes resurface and are determined to finish the job they began years ago."

"It is also curious that a beautiful, married Arab princess, with whom Sami once had a passionate romance, is in New York, looking for him...with a gun in her handbag."



Petros Makris grew up in Cyprus, was educated at a private high school in Nicosia, and has previously published many articles and written a number of short stories. Last week he spent time at the County Library meeting local book readers and signing copies for them.

The Apostate is published by SilverWood Books RRP £11.99 (paperback); £3.99 (ebook).

Tractors' charity

OVER 50 tractors took part in a 25-mile tractor run on Sunday, November 9, called 'Jimmy's Run', collecting sponsorship, selling raffle tickets and homemade cakes on the day.

They raised an incredible £3,000 that is being donated to the Head and Neck Appeal at Velindre.

The group who organised the event is The Glamorgan Iron Horse Vintage Society.

Their enthusiasm and support of Velindre has been incredible.

ML

KILIMANJARO TEAM RAISE CASH FOR NEW VELINDRE SERVICE



Pictured turning on the new service are Keith Staley, Keith Thomas, Louise Piper Jones, and Terry Jones.

SPENDING time in hospital without internet access is an increasing problem for patients.

Now, thanks to the fundraising efforts of a group of eight friends, every patient at Velindre Cancer Centre can take advantage of a free internet service and will be able to access emails, and engage with friends on social media.

The head of fundraising at Velindre, Andrew Morris, said: "It can be hugely frustrating for patients and visitors who cannot keep in touch with their friends. Time can drag very slowly and as patient-centred care is at the heart of everything we strive to do at Velindre, this was a situation we were very keen to rectify."

"The group of eight friends, Louise Piper-Jones, Jonathan Mainwaring, Hannah Jenkins, Keith Staley, Mandy and Paul Clarke, Terry Jones and Keith Thomas, climbed Mount Kilimanjaro and raised an incredible amount - over £44,000."

"This money has allowed us to introduce this new service, and so thousands and thousands of patients will benefit because of their fantastic efforts."

A spokesperson for the 'Velinmanjaro' team said "We were very happy to hear that the money we

raised is being put to such good use. We chose to support Velindre as several family and friends had been affected by cancer and regularly praised the service offered by the centre."

"It's a great feeling to know that we have made keeping in touch with family and friends at such a difficult time possible."

As well as enabling patients to surf the internet generally, access to services such as Skype to keep in contact with family and friends from all over the world will be available. This will be particularly helpful for patients who have travelled some distance for specialist treatment, and whose relatives may not be able to visit regularly.

"The service will greatly improve the quality of the time spent at Velindre, said Andrew Morris".

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The Bead Room @ Boxes & Buns

FocusBARRY to tour Hafod care facility

MEMBERS and supporters of FocusBARRY are to hold their next meeting on December 5 at the new Hafod Care facility, Golau Caredig, Gladstone Road.

There will only be two items on the agenda, firstly a tour of the new care facility and then a presentation from a representative of the Barry Island Property Company, who will provide some background to plans for the funfair site.

We'll have time for tea, coffee and a mince pie between items.

Members of the public who have not attended one of our meetings before are welcome to come along but, since we are visiting an occupied building, we do need some idea of numbers.

If you are interested in coming along for the first time, please email us at FocusBARRY@live.co.uk for the final details and access arrangements.

Please arrive promptly for a 7pm start.

Dennis Harkus

GENERAL ANTIQUES VALUATIONS

Bonhams will be in the areas of Cowbridge, Penarth, Llantwit Major and surrounding villages of the Vale of Glamorgan for home valuations.

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£25 GEM FACEBOOK PRIZE

Our GEM Facebook winner for November 27, 2014 is: KRISTEN EVANS

who correctly answered last week's question in The GEM.

Our lucky winning reader, chosen at random wins a £25 prize voucher to spend with any advertiser in last week's GEM.

The competition runs every week throughout 2014 with a potential prize fund of £1,150.

Congratulations, Kristen!

REMEMBER TO LIKE US AND SHARE ON FACEBOOK:
facebook.com/glamorgangem



Pupils are full of Christmas spirit!



CHRISTMAS has come early at Gladstone Primary School, as the annual collection of shoeboxes for Operation Christmas Child took place last week.

Children and staff donned Christmas jumpers, hats and 'sparkle' led by teacher Sarah Creasey. They formed a human chain and passed each shoebox from one child to the

next, starting in the upstairs hall, leading down the stairs, through the playground and into the grateful hands of the gentlemen in the collection van.

A spokeswoman said: "Friends from Oak Field Primary School joined in the fun and together a grand total of 170 boxes were donated. The school would like to thank every child and parent who donated a shoebox, filling it with presents and love for those less fortunate than ourselves."

Jenny shortlisted for 'Rising Stars Cymru'

VALE housing officer Jenny Lewington has been shortlisted for the Rising Stars Cymru award.

The award, run by the Chartered Institute of Housing, looks to celebrate people working in housing who make "a positive contribution to neighbourhoods and communities in Wales."

Head of Housing and Building Services, Hayley Selway, said:

"Jenny is definitely a rising star of housing in Wales. Her commitment to the sector and to the Vale of Glamorgan is clearly evidenced through the passion and commitment she has for any project."

The winner will receive a collection of prizes, including a year's mentoring from an influential housing professional, as well as two free one-day training courses and a feature article published in Housing Quarterly.



Housing strategy officer Jenny Lewington.

Christmas shoebox deadline December 9

OVER 20,000 Christmas shoeboxes have arrived at the Cowbridge warehouse. Hopefully one final effort from GEM readers will result in the

target of 25,000 being met.

Latest time to get your shoebox to the warehouse on the Llandow industrial estate is next Tuesday, December 9.

TM

TREE PLANTING FOR BARRY WAR HEROES HELD THIS SATURDAY

THIS coming Saturday, volunteers will complete a year long project to plant 700 trees along the entrance to Barry.

The trees will become a living memorial to the victims of the First World War.

The Woodland Trust is supporting the White Farm Conservation Group's project to remember Barry's heroes by donating the majority of the trees, and Keep Wales Tidy has also provided us with vital public liability insurance.

Volunteers are asked to meet at the junction of Port Road East and Merthyr Dyfan Road this coming Saturday, December 6 at 12pm. All equipment and gloves will be provided. All are welcome but please make sure you wear appropriate clothing for the weather conditions.

If you are unable to come along, why not make a donation by writing a cheque to 'The White Farm Conservation Group' and posting the donation to Rob Curtis at 118 Merthyr Dyfan Road,

Barry, CF62 9TJ.

Please spend a couple of hours helping us plant this wonderful living memorial to Barry's Great War heroes. We hope to be planting the last of the 700 trees.

I am proud of the support this living memorial has received from the people of Barry. Residents have both donated money and volunteered their time to ensure Barry's First World War heroes are never forgotten.

Britain has the least amount of woodland in the whole of Europe and by planting these trees you could do your bit to help reverse that trend.

Coun Rob Curtis, Barry.

Jumble sale

VALE PLUS in Barry is holding a jumble sale tomorrow, Friday, December 5 from 1.30pm til 3pm, in the Old Chapel, 118a High St, Barry.

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Out and About with The GEM

'Paddington' is one of the most charming and beguiling films of the year

THERE'S a strong field of competition when it comes to being the best bear in cinema. You have Baloo from *The Jungle Book*, Yogi, and who else could forget the bear that tormented Anthony Hopkins and Alec Baldwin in *The Edge*.

There's a new competitor in town, however, in the shape of Paddington Bear, who stars in the semi-titular *Paddington*, which sees the marmalade-loving creature (voiced by Ben Whishaw) leave behind deepest darkest Peru in order to see the sights of London.

When he arrives he is taken in, begrudgingly, by the Brown family (led by Hugh Bonneville and Sally Hawkins), all the while being monitored by

taxidermist Millicent (Nicole Kidman), who has set her sights on getting a stuffed Paddington of her own...

Given the enduring popularity of Michael Bond's creation, it was always a matter of when and not if the duffel coat-wearing bear would find himself in cinemas, but as history has taught us, getting the character onto the big screen is one thing, maintain the charm and personality of the source material is a different thing altogether.

Thankfully, under the auspices of writer and director Paul King, *Paddington* achieves this with aplomb, the finished product a thoroughly charming, witty and beguiling film that will appeal as much to the young at heart as the young of age.

It's a film that avoids the pitfalls that other film characters fall into; there's no attempt to update it for the 21st century (the film delicately balancing the original story with witty additions that never feel like they're trying too hard), simply refining what makes him, and the stories, so magical in the first place, and this credit belongs to King. The script is fast-



by
GARETH JAMESON
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paced, with very little that feels superfluous, and maintains the warm wit and English-ness of Bond's books. He crafts real characters, not only giving Paddington a depth that many real-life characters lack, but also those around him, the Brown family in particular written with a real eye for both detail and realism.

For those who haven't seen King's debut feature *Bunny and The Bull* (well worth checking out), the wonderful visual sensibility the director brings will charm and delight, whether it is a train-station meeting using a toy railway or the leaves of the mural of a tree in the Browns' house losing its leaves; he gives London a fairytale feel, and while there is the usual case of landmark overkill, really captures the beauty of the city. *Mary Poppins* an obvious touchstone both visually and

narratively.

While King's visual storytelling is married to a strong and efficient script, the CGI is also tremendous, with *Paddington* being superbly realised and carrying a real presence, while the fleeting moments of action are delivered with enough fizz and humour that you completely overlook the ludicrousness of it all.

Voicing Paddington, Ben Whishaw is a revelation, his clipped, polite tones the perfect fit for a character who was to be voiced by Colin Firth before it was deemed the latter's voice too 'lived-in' for such a young bear. Showing the same level of assurance you see in his live-action performances, Whishaw is the fulcrum of the cast.

Equally as good are Hugh Bonneville and Sally Hawkins, their characters, and the performances, going deeper than simply a grown-up presence in a kids' film. Their relationship floundering under his risk-adverse personality (seeing him go from biker to Volvo driver is wonderfully played), Paddington's arrival brings them closer together; without him you'd be looking at a study of the breakdown of a marriage, so well-written and performed their relationship is.

Nicole Kidman offers good value as the taxidermist after the

bear, her villainous turn delivered with a hint of ham but all the better for it, while a raft of smaller turns from some fine actors gives the film real depth.

It's more than just premature Christmas spirit that prevents me from saying anything negative about this film. It is a wonderfully pleasant film to watch and a film that surprises in terms of how good it is, delighting in equal measure. Pack your marmalade sandwiches and get to the cinema, *Paddington* is waiting!

VERDICT: One of the most surprising delights of the year, *Paddington* is a truly mesmerising and satisfying film. A top-notch cast play it superbly well, while writer/director Paul King not only gets the characters and the story right, but encases it in a gorgeous looking film; an absolute treasure. Essential viewing.

SEE THIS IF YOU LIKED: *Mary Poppins* (1964), *Stuart Little* (1999).

A galaxy of stars brings panto magic to the New Theatre!

SPARKLING glass slippers, a pair of Ugly Sisters, a handsome Prince and the most popular rags-to-riches story of all time can mean only one thing – the magical pantomime *Cinderella*.

This year a galaxy of stars bring traditional panto magic to Cardiff for the New Theatre's pantomime.

Any Dream Will Do winner and Casualty star Lee Mead will lead the cast in the role of Prince Charming.

Joining Lee is Linda Lusardi as the Fairy Godmother, Sam Kane and Mike Doyle as The Ugly Sisters, comedian Andy Jones plays Buttons and Wales' very own sporting hero, Gareth Thomas takes on the role of Dandini.

Lee shot to fame when he won BBC's *Any Dream Will Do*, Andrew Lloyd Webber's search to find the lead in his production of *Joseph And The Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat*. Lee subsequently enjoyed a successful run in the hit musical at London's Adelphi Theatre, acclaimed by audiences and critics alike.

Linda's many stage roles include *Funny Peculiar*, *Bedside Manner*, *Not Now Darling*, *Pygmalion* and *Rock with Laughter*.

Comedian Andy Jones will play the pantomime's unsung hero Buttons. Andy's talent and natural comedic timing have seen him become a firm favourite with pantomime audiences over the years. *Cinderella* marks his seventh New Theatre pantomime appearance.

Sam has appeared in numerous stage shows including *Popstar*, the

West End production of *The Rat Pack*, *Hot Flush!*, *Simply Ballroom*, *Carousel*, *Boogie Nights* and *Seven Brides for Seven Brothers* to name but a few.

Gareth Thomas was the first Welsh player to reach 100 caps and is one of the most iconic and respected figures in the world sport, being voted BBC Wales Sports Personality of the Year in 2005.

Off the field he has also enjoyed appearances on Channel 5's *Celebrity Big Brother* where he finished third, and was a semi-finalist in ITV1's *Dancing On Ice* in 2013.

Grant McFarlane, general manager of the New Theatre, said: "The New Theatre has the enviable reputation of presenting Wales' number one pantomime each and every year. I can say with complete confidence that *Cinderella* this festive season will delight panto-goers of all ages. Roll on December 13!"

Cinderella will be staged by Qdos Entertainment, the world's largest pantomime producer, and the company behind the New Theatre's record-breaking production last year. It runs at the New Theatre from Saturday, December 13 to Sunday, January 18.

Tickets for this unmissable Christmas show start from £10.50, with offers available for families and others. They can be booked on 029 2087 8889 or online at www.newtheatrecardiff.co.uk.

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IN BRIEF

Marie Curie coffee at Iltyd 216

AN annual coffee morning in memory of Joanne Wathan is being held on Friday, December 5 from 10am - 12 midday at Iltyd 216 (tickets £10). Free raffle, coffee and cake thanks to owners George and Eina. All proceeds go to Marie Curie charity. All welcome.

Christmas bazaar

CHRISTMAS bazaar on Saturday, December 6 at 6.30pm in Llandow Village Hall.

On sale will be handmade arts and crafts, and last-minute gift ideas! Free entry includes a glass of mulled wine and mince pie.

Christmas singalong

LLANGYNWYD village hall will be holding a Christmas singalong on December 13 commencing at 7pm.

Entry is free and mulled wine and mince pies are available with licensed bar.

Everybody welcome so come along and enjoy the Christmas spirit.

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A WARM WELCOME AWAITS DINERS AT THE BRYN OWAIN

TO say that there have been changes at the Bryn Owain, just outside Cowbridge on the A48, would be a massive understatement.

After all, a six-figure investment is a significant sum in anyone's language, and it has completely transformed the look of the former Loch Fyne premises.

Walk into the Bryn Owain now and you are in a warm and welcoming environment.

The table layout reveals that the accent is on food. There are no 'trendy' chrome fittings, on view – the look is natural wood and warm colours.

Stuart Buzza is the manager now, and when The GEM dropped in,

he was buzzing – after a very busy day courtesy of the Cowbridge Reindeer Parade, as families looked for somewhere to enjoy their Sunday lunch.

As the Bryn Owain has put a lot of thought into making a visit to the restaurant a real family experience, it was just what Stuart was hoping for.

The parent company of the Bryn Owain is Greene King and Stuart, who was brought up in Chepstow, is delighted to be back in the south Wales area after five years managing one of the company's flagship pubs, the White Hart in London.

He said: "Growing up in Chepstow we played rugby against teams from this area. That was quite an experience but it would be good to get training again and see if I can get a game with Cowbridge".

One of the first changes Stuart made when he took over at the Bryn Owain was to have proper table service for the diners. Previously, customers had been asked to order at the bar.

He said: "We are offering a real dining experience, and people are simply much more comfortable giving their order to their waiter or waitress." This also gives people a chance to ask any questions about the menu, so it clearly makes good sense.

The menu has just been updated with winter in mind, so the accent at the moment is on traditional pub favourites – pies, burgers, steaks, or fish and chips.

For lunch, there is a two main courses for £9.99 offer, which is great value.

The evening menu, however, still has more upmarket dishes to tempt the diner, including salmon fillet with broccoli, pea and spinach pastry, with Tewkesbury mustard and Cheddar sauce, or roasted belly pork with a black treacle glaze!

So far, Stuart has seen a great response from people who are driving along the A48,



looking for a place to eat, and has regulars from as far afield as Maesteg and Bridgend.

However, he feels that there are still a number of local people who are not yet aware of a new dining option available on their doorstep.

Loch Fyne was

closed for quite a while, and sometimes news takes a while to circulate.

The name 'Bryn Owain' has a great deal of local history attached, it means 'Owain's Hill' and refers back to a battle nearby when Owain Glyndwr defeated the

English.

It turns out that, when diners ask about the name – not a lot of people knew that!

It is also true that, at the moment, quite a few people don't know what the Bryn Owain can offer – but that is set to change very soon!

Annual Boxing Day walk

FOR over 30 years, Dinas Powys Community Council has organised a Boxing Day walk.

This year, the walk will start from the village square, Dinas Powys at 2pm.

Walk leader Geraint Thomas said: "It's a great way to get some fresh air and exercise over the festive season, and starting from the village square

means that walkers can go for a drink and chat afterwards.

"All walkers should wear either boots or wellingtons as the fields and paths can be very muddy this time of year. I'll put photos of the walk on the Dinas Powys walks page on Facebook, so wear your best bobbiehat!"

The walk is free to attend and all walkers do so at their own risk.

GT

Town councillors back Fairtrade

LAST Friday, councillors from Barry Town Council staffed a Fairtrade stall at the High Street Christmas light switch on.

They gave away samples of Fairtrade bananas, Kitkats and wafers, as well as information about Fairtrade.

The chair of the Barry Fairtrade Steering Group, Coun Rob Curtis added: "It was so good to see that many of our local children already knew about at school."

"Can I also remind businesses and community Groups that next year's Fairtrade Fortnight will be held between February 23 and March 8. Please start planning your events and make sure you tell the town council about them."

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In Business Update

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Start New year with 'Mindfulness' classes!

HAVE you ever noticed how days, weeks, even months fly by without really knowing what you've done during this time?

Many of us live life on autopilot, meaning we follow usual routines causing us not to be 'present' in our everyday living.

We can find ourselves ruminating over negative, unhelpful events, often failing to notice the good things about our lives, instead dwelling on toxic self criticism.

Learning how to become aware of our thoughts, feelings and emotions in a way that suspends judgement and self-criticism can have an incredibly positive impact on our lives.

Mindfulness is a way of introducing focus and clarity to

whatever is happening in our lives.

Although it will not eliminate life's difficulties, it can help us respond to them in a calmer manner.

Mindfulness provides us with a scientifically researched approach to cultivating clarity, insight, and understanding.

Practising mindfulness allows us to be fully present in our life and work, and improve our quality of everyday living.

Courses starting January - for more information contact Sue on 07795 964066 or 02920

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G2S WALES are pleased to announce that their new showroom in

Bridgend is now fully open. The G2S Group are probably one of the best known names in double glazing, with over 140 years of trading across their group of companies.

With showrooms in Swindon, Bristol, Salisbury, Melksham and Gloucester, they came to Bridgend earlier this year with the aim of bringing the best windows and doors to south Wales.

The G2S aim is simple – to be the best in their industry. They offer transparent pricing, superior products across their range and affordable and flexible finance options for everyone, coupled with an unrivalled level of customer service.

Alan Williams, group MD said: "The people of Bridgend and the surrounding areas have made us very welcome and have embraced our unique approach to providing windows and doors. We have received very positive

feedback from many satisfied clients and I attribute this to our experienced and competent workforce.

"Many of our fitters have been with us since we started the G2S Group, and we have also employed more than 30 local people since our arrival in Bridgend."

Every window and door supplied by G2S Wales is made to measure for a perfect fit. They apply their own, unique method of fitting their windows and doors, ensuring that not only are their products perfect, so is the fitting of them.

Their range of window and door colours, designs and finishes is very comprehensive, and much of their work is coming from customers who are recommending them to family and friends.

One of the most unique qualities of G2S Wales is that they never have, nor ever will, take deposits from their customers.

Mr Williams explained: "I believe that it is wrong to take

any money from our customers before we have completed the work to their total satisfaction.

"We offer a comprehensive range of affordable finance packages to suit everybody's budget, and we are proud of our 10 year guarantee, which is better than any other in our industry."

"We are continuing to recruit new members of staff at our new Bridgend showroom to manage sales, installation and administration of the continually increasing volume of work, and we are proud of our growing workforce."

Why don't you pop along to the new showroom at York Park, Bridgend and have a look at the extensive range of products in display? They are open six days a week, but will answer the phones personally 24 hours a day, seven days a week. You can also see their full range at

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Debby and her team offer excellent customer service with honest advice, to make their customers look and feel special.

Debby likes to buy stock that is a little different which the High Street doesn't offer.

Missy is also a must visit for all you bling lovers. Looking forward to seeing you all.



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WITH the cold weather setting in, many households will be relying on gas appliances to keep their family warm this winter.

This increased use can put pressure on gas appliances and could lead to them breaking down.

It is vital that everyone has their gas appliances serviced every year to prepare them for the cold winter months. Stay safe and don't be left out in the cold this winter.

Did you know that having your gas appliances serviced every year will help keep them working safely and more efficiently? Badly fitted and poorly serviced gas appliances can produce deadly carbon monoxide.

A survey of gas engineers showed that most problems with gas appliances are caused by lack of annual servicing.

Make sure you don't get caught out this winter!



In Business Update

Pilates classes held in Barry

Barry Pilates Classes

Mondays 9.15am, 10.30am & 5.30pm
Thursdays 10am, Fridays 6pm & 7.15pm
Classes for Beginners and Intermediates

New Beginners Course

Starting Thursday 8th January 9am

Sharon 07830 085606

www.barrypilates.co.uk

2014 has been the busiest year yet for Barry Pilates, with seven classes running weekly, during both daytime and evenings.

Classes are led by local osteopath and qualified Pilates teacher Sharon Sylvester.

Pilates is a gentle form of exercise for the whole body working on both strengthening and stretching.

There are already two new beginners' courses planned for 2015 – one starting on Thursday, January 8, at 9am, and another on Monday, January 19, at 11.30am.

Both are held at St Nicholas Hall, Barry. There are a limited number of opportunities for new starters in the evening classes too.

At this time of year, classes fill up very quickly, so book your place with Sharon on 07830 085606 or email sharonpilates@hotmail.com, as soon as possible.

NP Garden and Landscaping Services celebrates ongoing success

LOCAL landscaping firm NP Garden & Landscaping services Ltd is celebrating after picking up three awards at the Marshalls regional awards ceremony on Monday night at Miskin Manor.

The company is no stranger to winning awards, after winning two last year and several awards in previous years for their landscaping and paving work.

The winning gardens were

picked from hundreds of entries from landscaping firms all over the south west of England and south Wales and will now go forward to the national awards against other award winners from across the UK, with the winner winning a brand new 4x4 pickup vehicle.

The company is celebrating its 15th year of trading, specialising in garden and driveway transformations, but also carries out individual projects such as fencing, artificial lawns, patios, decking and much more.

Being members of the Marshalls approved installers means they are also able to offer the Marshalls-backed 10-year guarantees on paving and driveway projects.

As well as being Marshalls-approved paving installers, the company is also approved installers of natural paving, and Bradstone products as well as being members of the association of professional landscapers and Trustmark, ensuring complete peace of mind for any project being carried out.



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FOOD WASTE CADDIES ESSENTIAL AT CHRISTMAS

AS employee Jim Miles (pictured below) shows, your food waste caddies could become a good friend this winter. Inevitably we tend to prepare even more over this season of good will.

Cabinet member for the

environment and visible services Coun Rob Curtis reminds Vale residents: "While menu planning, writing shopping lists, sending out invitations and freezing items can all help to reduce food waste being created, December tends to be one of the busiest months for food waste crews.

"From brussel sprout stalks, to

clementine peel, to turkey carcasses and vegetable peelings, there are plenty of items that can be recycled and diverted from black bags every week.

"Whether you home compost or use the council's free householder recycling service, it's important that you don't forget to do your bit, please!"



What's in your bin?

Tel: 01446 700111 Email: visible@valeofglamorgan.gov.uk

Our Recycling Team put the SPOTLIGHT ON

Recycling your food waste during the festive season...

www.valeofglamorgan.gov.uk/recycle

Barry business handles all things computer related

TL COMPUTER SYSTEMS (WALES) LTD, started life in January 1996, and has been a successful and thriving resource in the heart of Barry town ever since, specialising in all things computer related.

We pride ourselves on providing an array of services for all technological needs. No task is too small, and we welcome queries and custom from residential users and businesses alike.

One of our many areas of expertise, is web design and website/email hosting, all completed on site by our highly experienced support team. We will also provide annual maintenance contracts,

with competitive rates for all users. Many local businesses are already receiving support from us, you could too!

As well as our in-store technician, Simon, our mobile technician, Dave, can also provide a call out service; you might even have seen our van around Barry, and the wider area! To book a call out, simply give us a call on 01446 747702.

You can also pop in to our shop within opening hours (Monday to Friday 9.30am–5.30pm, and Saturday 9.30pm–2.30pm) to speak to our onsite technician or to use our popular internet cafe.

Our shop is currently being completely refurbished to make the shopping experience easier and more personal. It has been an exciting year for us at TL, as we have also recently re-branded and have a fantastic new sign above our shop at 40 Holton Road, Barry.

We have a wide range of office supplies and stationery, and can also provide email, letter writing, printing and faxing services – with a smile, of course!

There is a multitude of hardware and software choices also, including printers, laptops, ink cartridges (if we don't carry it in stock we can order it for you) and MS Office, anti-virus software and Adobe Photoshop.

We also supply, and support, MS Windows, Linux and Apple Mac operating systems. The list is truly endless!

With the vast array of services and supplies we provide, you really must come and see us. We look forward to seeing you very soon!



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COMMUNITY NEWS

Your local correspondent is
NANCY DAVIDGE
"Tynewydd", Llangan.
(01656) 860303
TREOES, LLANGAN
& ST MARY HILL

Treoes Village hall event MY word, what a successful event this was!

I was amazed at the vast variety of items which were for sale, and so reasonably priced. It was also an opportunity to meet friends and associates.

I understand part of the proceeds will benefit Saron Chapel. I hope so, as staunch supporter of Saron, Mrs Jill Ham and friends, work tirelessly in their efforts to maintain Saron.

Christmas party at Saron Chapel ON Sunday, December 7, 3pm - 4pm, go along to Saron and enjoy the delights of children who will entertain their mums and dads.

This will be followed by the Christmas party which will be held in the Treoes Village Hall.

Reminder
LLANGAN and St Mary Hill Village Hall will stage a pantomime on Saturday,

December 6 at 7pm and again on Sunday, December 7 at 2.30pm. Please telephone Barry on 07749 825267 for tickets.

As in previous years, children from Llangan School will provide part of the entertainment!

Llangan School entertains

A WARM welcome is extended to the senior citizens of Llangan on Tuesday, December 9, at 1.30pm at the school.

St Canna's Llangan

ST CANNA'S Christmas celebrations will take place on Sunday, December 14, at 11.15am with a traditional service of lessons and carols, followed by sherry and mince pies.

Everyone is welcome. Please bring a family member and a friend! Eucharist service, Christmas Day at 9.30am. No service on Sunday, December 28.



Some of Brynteg's Duke of Edinburgh silver and bronze award winners.

BRYNTEG PUPILS' SUCCESS IN DUKE OF EDINBURGH AWARDS

DURING the last year, a large number of Brynteg pupils from years 10 to 12 have entered in and completed The Duke of Edinburgh Award.

Pupils started Bronze in year-10 and completed at the start of year-11; Silver is started in year-11/12 and completed in year-12/13.

Every entrant had to complete an hour a week for three or six months on each of the three sections, volunteering, skills and physical.

Pupils were charged with finding

opportunities for completing these sections themselves and there was a good range of activities.

Volunteering included: working in a charity shop, looking after animals, creating displays in school and helping younger pupils around school.

Skills included: playing an instrument, learning first aid, additional maths and learning a language.

Physical included: rock climbing, rugby, swimming and lifeguards.

Having completed a marathon of

training and expeditions we had 73 participants who completed their awards.

All were invited to a presentation evening on a Wednesday evening at Y Dderwen where they were given their Bronze or Silver certificates! It was a great evening attended by over 50 Brynteg pupils, easily the largest group there.

In total this year we have 34 Bronze awards and 39 Silver awards (of which 33 had previously completed Bronze), this is easily the highest number of any

school in the county.

A massive well done to all participants on completing your awards!

A massive thank you to the staff who helped out throughout the year, Mr Rudall, Mr Buller, Mrs Bevan, Mr Davies, Mrs Perna, Mrs Morgan, Mr Vicker, Miss Higman, Mrs Burroughs and Miss Clifford.

So now on to the next cohort, we have 66 pupils signed up for Bronze, 32 for Silver and 12 for Gold!

PD

The search for the Reindeers is over!

Gift donations for animal charities this Christmas

THE GEM is supporting animal welfare charities this winter and people can drop their gifts in to our 53, Eastgate, Cowbridge, office and they will be passed on.

Among the charities to benefit will be UK German Shepherd Rescue, which is based in Wales, Greyhound Rescue Wales, Heart Hounds, Animals in Mind, Many Tears, Lizzie's Barn Animals

and Greenacres.

The following items are required by organisations including rescue centres: bleach, pine disinfectant, mops, buckets, blue rolls, disposable gloves, heavy duty bin bags, hard brushes, dog toys, dog treats and biscuits, dog food (complete bags or tins) dog beds, dog collars, combs and brushes, towels, dog flea treatment and shampoo, and Drontal wormer tablets.

Many thanks for your support.

Plaid's job support

PLAID Cymru councillors Ian Johnson and Steffan Wiliam have welcomed plans to bring jobs to Barry Waterfront through development of land around Hood Road, the southern part of the Innovation Quarter.

Coun Johnson said that he had wanted to keep the area as an open-air entertainment space, but now that the Vale Council had

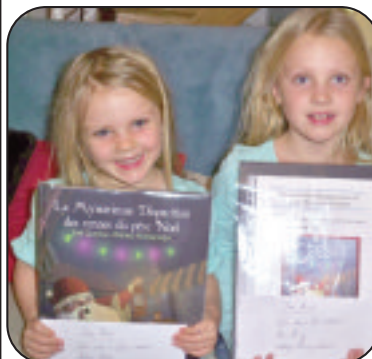
rejected that proposal, he said it was important that it was developed as soon as possible.

The Vale Council plans to market the site for either financial and professional services, food and drink, business or assembly and leisure, so is not looking to build housing on the site, but says that, for example, a cinema could be built there.

Coun Steffan Wiliam said that the town needed an integrated strategy to link the Island, Waterfront and town centre.



ABOVE: Jacob Protheroe-Jones of Porthcawl Primary School.



Sisters Robyn (left) and Ava Davies of Nottage Primary School.

Read your GEM online every week - just go to: bridgend-today.co.uk

FOLLOWING five weeks of publicity of the 'Find the Reindeer competition' in The GEM and by participating shops in Porthcawl belonging to the Porthcawl Chamber of Trade, the awards were presented to the four winners by Rob Chick, president of the Porthcawl St Sebastian Town Twinning Association.

The competition winners were:

First, £25 cash and a £25 cheque to spend in Rascals Toy Shop: Jacob Protheroe-Jones, Porthcawl Primary School;

Second, £20 cash and a £20 cheque to spend in Rascals Toy Shop: Robyn Davies, Nottage



Elisha Martin, Nottage Primary.

Primary School;

Third, £15 cash and a £15 cheque to spend in Rascals Toy Shop: Ava Davies, Nottage Primary School, Robyn and Ava are sisters;

Fourth, £10 cash: Elisha Martin, Nottage Primary School.

From the list of participating traders in Porthcawl, all the

winning children chose to spend their vouchers at Rascals Toy Shop with their two favourite shops being The Fruit Bowl and Rascals Toy Shop; we wonder why?

The Porthcawl St Sebastian Town Twinning Association would like to acknowledge and thank The GEM newspaper for

running the 'Find the Reindeer' competition' and for giving such good coverage to the project over the last five weeks, all the traders in Porthcawl who took part in the competition, members of the PSSTA who contributed to the success of the venture, and last but not least, to all the children who took up the challenge and searched for Father Christmas missing reindeer.

The association is pleased to report that all the reindeer were found safe and sound and are now back with Santa Claus and ready to do their bit in pulling his sleigh again this Christmas.

Well done everyone and thank you all. Nadolig Llawn a Blwyddyn Newydd Dda. With Best Wishes for Christmas and the New Year.

RC

New lady captain is named

IT was a beautiful morning for the newly appointed lady captain at Pyle and Kenfig Golf Club, Lyn Lloyd, when she held her 'drive in' on November 29.

Many turned up to support the annual event and everyone had fun placing their name pegs on the fairway where they guessed Lyn's ball would land.

Well done to Izzy Morris and Cora Edwards who guessed the nearest to the ball.

Lyn has been an active member of the club since 1981 and was previously lady captain in 1990.

She was delighted to step

up again from lady vice to lady captain, this time taking over from Mary Ellis, who continues to undertake active committee duties.

Lyn nominated Susanne Jones as her lady vice captain. Other committee members are Margaret Wood, Karen Campbell Ace, Mary Ellis, Teri Ward, Alison Hurry, Liz Attwood, Susanne Jones, Claire Morris, Cora Edwards, Gwyneth Parsons and Annette Rhys.

Readers are reminded that a warm welcome awaits you whether or not you have played golf. Contact the club on 01656 783093 or email secretary@pandkgolfclub.co.uk

NG



Cora Edwards, lady captain Lyn Lloyd, Izzy Morris.

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Cowbridge student's engineering scholarship



ABOVE: Benjamin Jones being presented with his certificate by Ruth Bournemouth from Lloyds Register Foundation.

A COWBRIDGE Comprehensive School student, Benjamin Jones, was recently awarded a sought-after Arkwright Engineering Scholarship at a ceremony in London.

Ben was presented with his Arkwright Scholarship by principal guest Dr Stephen Payne OBE FREng, designer of the Queen Mary 2 ocean liner. Ben also met the organisation that is sponsoring his scholarship for the next two years - Lloyds

Register Foundation.

Ben told The GEM that he specially wanted to thank his teacher at Cowbridge, Mr Cooke, for all his help and advice.

The Arkwright Engineering Scholarships support young people from across the UK who have the potential to be industry's future leaders in engineering and technical design. During their sixth-form studies, scholars receive £600 to support their technical courses and have access to a range of exciting opportunities to learn more about engineering, such as mentoring and company visits. Schools receive £400 per scholarship awarded to their students.

Scholars are selected following a rigorous selection process comprising a detailed application form, supported by a teacher's reference, a two-hour aptitude exam and an interview hosted at a top engineering university.

From a pool of 25,000 eligible students, this year teachers endorsed the applications of 1,430 students and 410 scholarships were eventually awarded.

Local farm student wins FUW award



THE latest winner of the Farmers' Union of Wales Glamorganshire county branch's Walter Rowlands memorial award is Luke Morgan of Groes Farm, Southern Down, currently studying agricultural mechanisation at Wiltshire College.

Luke, who has already received a merit on the agricultural course at Bridgend College, has been a member of Wick YFC for six years.

He said he will use the bursary towards funding additional courses such as welding, and attending study tours to demonstration farms,

workshops and factories.

FUW Glamorganshire county chairman Richard Walker presented the award (above) and said: "Luke is a well deserving recipient. 'We wish him all the very best with his studies and future plans.'

"It is very encouraging to see such enthusiasm from the younger generation towards the agricultural industry and the union is keen to continue supporting promising young farmers through this award."

The award, in memory of FUW county secretary Walter G Rowlands, who died in service in 1986, is made to an agricultural student in Glamorganshire after careful consideration by the union's county executive committee.

Topstak stocks designer batiks

BEAUTIFUL designer batiks created by artist Marie-Therese King will now be stocked by flourishing Vale business, Topstak.

Marie-Therese is based in Malvern, but learned the secrets of the ancient Indonesian art of batik at a series of workshops in Cowbridge.

Her work is inspired by the flora and fauna of the British Isles, and she translates her concepts onto Indonesian cotton

using the traditional method of layering melted wax and dyes.

Lynda Pedersen from Topstak said: "We visited Marie-Therese in her studio in Worcestershire. We were very impressed with the quality of her work, and, as she trained in Cowbridge, we were delighted to bring the fruits of her training back to this part of the world."

Marie-Therese's work can be seen at the brand-new Topstak showroom in the Vale, along with a diverse range of gifts, kitchenware, interiors and wood burning stoves.

Anne-Marie inspires members to new heights of creativity

BONT FAEN WI NEWS

MEMBERS eagerly welcomed back floral expert Anne-Marie Merlini to our November meeting, with many of us creating Christmas tree table top decorations.

Although everyone was provided with the same materials, it was interesting to see the varied and pretty final results, and it was a pleasure to take home 'one we made earlier,' placing us all in the Christmas mood.

To add to the festive spirit, a group of members eagerly snapped up an offer from our own Maggie Cooper to attend the opening of her new combined business venture at The Barn, on the Ogmere Road just up from Ewenny.

Set up along the lines of Happy Days in Cowbridge, it offers a range of old and antique home furniture, Welsh blankets, plus new paints and smaller items - many of us were pleased to buy some very interesting gifts.

An external brazier provided warmth in the rear courtyard where we were served with delicious cakes and warm mulled wine, in lieu of a soon to be opened tea room. Good luck Maggie and all.

Julie Harris and Jane Crowe were delighted to attend the 50th

anniversary party of Penlllyn WI, which provided an opportunity to enjoy an entertainer, a delightful buffet, speeches plus the anniversary cake, and the good company of our local group members from Llanblethian and Ystradowen.

Looking ahead to the party season, we shall enjoy a night of fun at our very own Christmas party in the Lesser Hall on December 18, and meet for our post-Christmas dinner in the New Year at the Market Place, Cowbridge. Merry Christmas to all our members past and present!

JH

Museum anxious to extend collection

COWBRIDGE Museum, is interested in extending its collection of items and history of trade and occupations in Cowbridge from the last 150 years.

If you have any photographs, small objects, memories or stories we would be very interested.

Please contact the curator, Louisa Fagan, at louisafagan@hotmail.co.uk or on 07595 501626.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Christmas WI fayre

PENLLYN and District WI Christmas fayre is taking place in Penlllyn Village Hall on Saturday, December 6 from 10am to 1pm.

Choose Christmas presents from handmade craft, jewellery and many other items. Refreshments will be on sale, including delicious homemade cakes, pickles and preserves.

Big Screen Cowbridge

BIG Screen's next film for this season is *Elf* (Cert PG) on Thursday, December 11, at 7.30pm

MEET AND EAT!

SENIOR Citizens Christmas activities are as follows:

Afternoon meeting for members, at the Quarter Penny Cafe, Cowbridge on Tuesday, December 9 at 3pm for tea and scones. Christmas lunch at The Bear Hotel, Cowbridge, on Thursday, December 18 at 12.30pm for 1pm. Menu choices have already been made. For any other information, contact Mavis Ashford, chairman on 01446 775508.

Musical moments at friendship club

AT the November meeting of the Cowbridge Friendship Club, it was an afternoon of music from *The Phantom Of The Opera*, *South Pacific*, *Jesus Christ Superstar* and *Oklahoma*.

It was a very enjoyable afternoon which was followed by the usual tea and cakes.

There will be no meeting in December, as members will be attending the Christmas party run by the Age Concern Good Neighbour Scheme in Llantwit Major, but we would like to wish a very happy Christmas

and New Year to all the volunteers from the Rotary, and other drivers who kindly give their time every month to help transport the members to our meetings.

Some of the members are hoping to go along to the Holy Cross Christmas Tree Festival to see their contributions on the Cowbridge Friendship Club Christmas tree.

Our next meeting will be in January. We always have a variety of activities at our meetings so if you or anyone you know would like to join our club where transport is provided, telephone 01656-668446.

Pat Smith



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Plea to switch off LED lights

IHAVE requested nicely, pleaded and cursed the council to switch off the LED lights in Batts Field.

These lights glow in my bedroom window all night and disturb my sleep to the point that I can't sleep.

The council are ignoring the fact that these lights affect my wellbeing, depriving me of sleep.

I can't sleep in the front of the house due to its elevated position as the street light opposite is level with my front top windows.

Hence my home is lit up like Wembley Stadium on a match night.

The lights in the field came without consultation or warning and the council have already turned down the intensity due to the detrimental effect they were having on me.

There is nowhere in my home that is dark anytime of the night as this council has gone lights crazy whilst saying they want to cut their carbon footprint and are energy conscious.

I am a senior citizen who does matter and I will shout it from the rooftops that I find such behaviour unacceptable.
Anne Usher, Barry.

Broadcasters get vowels in a twist

THE pronunciation of some vowels has changed, particularly among female broadcasters. 'Oo' has become 'u' or 'ee'. A recent advert encouraged us to 'buck' our holiday with 'Thomas Cuck'.

A weather forecaster told us what to expect "this afternoon". 'O' has become 'a' as in 'microscope'. Have your readers noticed any more?

This is in addition to many statements being pronounced with rising inflection, as though they were questions, and printed similarly.

R Bradshaw, Cowbridge.

Readers' Letters

Please keep your letters BRIEF and address them to: The Editor, at Glamorgan GEM Ltd, Graig House, 53 Eastgate, Cowbridge CF71 7EL or email gemeditorial@tindlenews.co.uk

LETTERS AND E-MAILS MUST INCLUDE FULL ADDRESS AND A CONTACT TELEPHONE NUMBER

IMPORTANT: We reserve the right to edit all letters. We do NOT accept anonymous mail. An email address alone is not sufficient!

We will (in certain circumstances) protect a writer's identity, if requested.

'Labour waste money while the town is falling apart'

WHAT a load of twaddle again spouted out by Labour-led Vale councillors regarding Barry Island fairground allowed to decay by current owners.

It is clear that 'pot and kettle' comes to mind here, you only have to look at the decay that this and previous councils are responsible for with the decay of the iconic but derelict toilet block at Barry Island over the last 45 years.

All previous administrations and the current council have been responsible for the decay in and around Barry and Barry Island.

Holton Road is a complete embarrassment to local people.

We have a new development on the eastern promenade which may look good now but how long will it be before this also falls into disrepair?

The brand new Adizone complex on Paget Road cost about £260,000 to build and it is already overgrown in places with weeds and brambles.

They mention their delivery of a new road for

Barry Island, claiming that they were solely responsible for its arrival.

Poppycock! This new road came about due to the pressure from Barry Island residents pressure group supported by Ian Bailly, me, Alun Cairns MP, Barry First Group, Barry Voice and the local Plaid Cymru team.

The truth is that Labour do very little except waste money on crazy ideas like the refurbishment of the council chambers (£250,000) when the town is falling apart at the seams.

Barrie V Evans, Coordinator, Barry First Group/Barry Voice.

The life of Frank Roper is to be commemorated at Llandaff Cathedral

LAST week's GEM made reference to a Valeways walk, inviting walkers to 'Join Frank Roper for his 'Penarth Churches' walk'.

In fact, Frank Roper died in 2000 and this, the last of three 'Roper Walks', is designed to commemorate the centenary of his birth.

The walk includes a visit to St Augustine's Church to see his

sculpture of the saint and a visit to All Saints' Church, Penarth, to see a fine example of his stained glass work.

From his cliff-top workshop, overlooking Penarth Pier, artist Frank Roper spent more than 50 years producing his unique sculptures and stained glass windows for churches throughout England and Wales.

These include works for cathedrals at Durham, Peterborough, Wells, Saint

David's and Llandaff, and many churches in Cardiff and the Vale of Glamorgan.

Frank Roper is buried at St Lawrence Church, Lavernock. His work however lives on.

Frank Roper's life and contribution to the renovation of Llandaff Cathedral will also be commemorated during Evensong at Llandaff Cathedral on Friday December 12, 2014.

Cen Williams, Llandaff.

'Does the local MP support landlords or not?'

WHAT does Alun Cairns

MP really believe in? On November 18, there was a Parliamentary vote to release the stranglehold that Pubcos exercise over their tenants.

The motion was successful, which will now enable pub landlords to rent their properties and buy their stock at market prices, rather than be forced to buy from their pubcos at extortionate rates.

Notably, Alun Cairns voted against this, although being a former member of the Parliamentary All-Party Beer Group.

It seems that since

being elevated to Parliamentary Under Secretary for Wales and Lord Commissioner to the Treasury, the leopard has changed his spots.

Taking into account the struggle to keep the Carne Arms in Llyswoyner and The Windsor in Penarth, support of our local MPs is crucial, but it seems that hope is forlorn.

I recall Mr Cairns's photo opportunity behind the bar at the Fox and Hounds in St Brides. Isn't it a shame how his allegiance changes so easily?

I have asked Mr Cairns for a comment on his social media page, I look forward to the answer.

Gerwyn Thomas, Llantwit Major.



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Spiceland in Pencoed offers customers an authentic Indian dining experience!

IN recent years, cooking from countries all over the world has arrived in Wales, although many of the new arrivals are confined to the big cities.

However, these newcomers have a long, long way to go before they can make a significant impact on the established foreign cuisines – if you can even call them ‘foreign’ any more, as they have been here so long – and the most popular these days must surely be Indian.

Whether it be a question of eating out or ordering in a takeaway, enthusiasts have plenty of choice, as any town of any size will offer a choice of Indian restaurants, and Bridgend is no different.

However, even if you have your own personal favourite, it is worth a trip to Pencoed to sample the menu of Indian and Bangladeshi cuisine at Spiceland, on Penybont Road.

Established since 2006, Spiceland has built a strong reputation on dishes of quality and flavour, and it offers a wide-ranging menu to tempt any diner.

I visited with a guest recently to see what was on offer and, although it was a quiet night for diners, the steady stream of takeaway collections and deliveries showed that Spiceland has plenty of fans in the area.

After enjoying the usual poppadoms and tray of chutneys as we studied the menu, I chose Meat Puri as a starter, and this turned out to be spiced and fried meat, served in a piece of folded, deep fried thin bread, which was a little bit like a taco in texture, and which complemented the spicy filling very well.

At just £3.50 it was excellent value, something that is par for the course at Spiceland.

My guest chose Tandoori Chicken, well cooked, seasoned and substantial – once again great value at £2.80.

One thing to point out is that Spiceland does not have a drinks licence, which gives diners the option of cutting the cost of their meal by bringing their own wine or beer.

Soft drinks are available, of course, something I needed when tackling my main course, Chicken Jalfrezi. The menu was quite specific, describing the dish as ‘hot and spicy’ – and it certainly was, delivering a real kick throughout the meal.

My guest’s choice was Lamb Passanda, very much milder but full of flavours, with the marinated lamb working really well with the creamy blend of nuts and spices.

The vast majority of the main courses (and there are plenty to choose from) are priced in the £5.50 to £6.50 range, good value again, and there is, of course, an extensive range of rice and nan breads to go with the meals.

For anyone keen to check out Spiceland’s menu, a coupon on page 1 of this week’s GEM offers 20 per cent discount on meals eaten in the restaurant, Sunday to Friday. (Offer expires January 31, 2015, and does not include New Year’s Eve).

PHILIP IRWIN

AM’s call for free car parking in the town centre

CALLS for free parking in Bridgend town centre after 2pm are being backed by regional Conservative AM Suzy Davies.

Mrs Davies, accompanied by Welsh Conservative parliamentary candidate for Bridgend, Meirion Jenkins, spoke to traders in Bridgend indoor market to hear how business is holding up.

Tim Wood, who runs a butchery stall with his father Peter, said that the market traders’ association made the request for free parking in the afternoons and they were being supported by Bridgend Town Council.

Suzy Davies said: “Traders tell

me that they are at a disadvantage compared to supermarkets where parking is free.

“The town centre is dead in the afternoon but there should be lots of people out and about fetching their children from school.

“However, because they have to pay to park at the Rhiw and Brackla Street car parks, the temptation is to go to a supermarket to shop where they can park for nothing. The council knows that free parking is an incentive to come to town hence the free parking near Christmas.

“Our town centres need help from local authorities if businesses are to survive. Councils have also been told, following a high court

ruling, that they must not treat car parks as a source of revenue.

“They are only supposed to make enough money to cover running costs and not use them as a cash cow.”

Meirion Jenkins said that the council did not stand to lose much money because the town was very quiet in the afternoons.

“What have they got to lose?” he asked. “If this move can reinvigorate afternoon trade in the town it will be in the council’s long term interest anyway to see a thriving town centre.”

Mrs Davies will write to BCBC chief executive Darren Mephram to ask them to consider scrapping parking charges after 2pm.

BUSY WEEKEND FOR CHOIR

CHRISTMAS is a busy of time of year for all of us – and no less so for local choirs and event organisers.

This weekend sees St Donats Atlantic Chorale in full voice at the switching on of the lights in Llantwit Major on Saturday, December 6.

They will be performing again the next day at 4pm in the Glass Room at St Donats Arts Centre.

Sunday’s concert, ‘A Musical Advent Calendar’, features Brahms’ ‘Marianlieder’: seven short pieces based on traditional folksongs.

Other music in the programme spans several centuries and includes songs and carols from Europe as well as traditional old favourites. Peppered with a few ‘seasonal’ readings, the programme promises an entertaining start to Christmas.

Mulled wine and mince pies will be served by way of good cheer; all adding the festive spirit of Christmas.

Tickets (£10 and £8)

are available either from the box office at St Donats Arts Centre (on 01446 799100 or online at www.stdonats.com) or from choir members.

Valeways walks

ON Tuesday, December 16 at 9.30am, Awn am Dro, starting at Cowbridge Library.

On Wednesday, December 17 at 10.30am, the coffee shop strollers meet at Romilly Cafe, Cold Knap, Barry.

On Thursday, December 18 at 10am, ‘A long walk for Christmas’ (eight to nine miles), starting at the Sycamore Tree pub, Colwinston.

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Valeways achievements praised by AM



THE Valeways AGM held at St Andrews Major Golf Club on Monday November 24 was attended by trustees, volunteers, walkers, mayors and community councillors.

Jane Hutt AM congratulated the Valeways team for developing new opportunities for funding this important voluntary body serving the Vale with guided walks. Their achievements include a walking festival and working parties to clean and clear our footpaths.

Graham is recognised for 'outstanding contribution' to footpaths in Vale

VALEWAYS, the Vale charity promoting public access in the Vale, held a celebratory lunch for one of its most influential members last week.

Graham Woosnam was actually a member of the Ramblers when some twenty years ago he was attracted and excited by the work proposed by Valeways.

Volunteers were being gathered together to actively address problems of access to public rights of way in the Vale.

In cooperation with the Vale Council Public Rights of Way Office, Valeways sent out working parties clearing public footpaths to make them accessible to any member of the public wanting to use them.

This programme developed and Graham's most significant contributions came with the process of designing circular walking routes and producing leaflets with walking instructions, places of interest etc. en-route.

While other volunteers were involved in this major work they



Val Warlow presenting Graham Woosnam with his named walk.

will happily concede that he undertook the lion's share of what was a monumental task.

As editor in chief, he spent many hours checking the accuracy (and grammar!) of the leaflets; doing further research on places of interest and liaising on graphic designs for all 20 walks.

Then came a project of national significance. The Valeways Millennium Heritage Trail is now shown on Ordnance Survey Maps as a National Trail.

The original circular route was designed by Barbara Palmer (another Valeways volunteer) in the eastern Vale and Graham in the west; but again as the editor it was he who pulled it all together and produced a wonderful book and set of maps still used as the guide to this fascinating 100 km route.

In recognising Graham's outstanding contribution previous Valeways chair, Val Warlow, said: "I could honestly say that we wouldn't have this wonderful footpath network in the Vale that we have today if it wasn't for Graham, and he doesn't even live in the county!" (Graham lives just over the border in Rhondda Cynon Taf).

To mark the occasion, Val presented Graham with gifts but particularly told him that following the next revision and reprinting of the Valeways Welsh St Donat's Walk leaflet, this particular favourite of his will be renamed and remain known as the Woosnam Walk.

Health shop fayre is a great success

AGE Connect Cardiff and Vale Senior Health Shop held a very successful Christmas Fayre at the Civic Offices on Thursday, November 27.

The fayre was opened by Coun Howard Hamilton, the Mayor of the Vale, who spoke highly of the work of the Senior Health Shop.

There were a wide range of attractive stalls including homemade crafts made by the *Stitch and Bitch* group of ladies who meet at the shop on Monday morning.

A prize draw was held in conjunction with the fayre with many attractive donations by local businesses,

including Manor House, Head Office, Brynhill Golf Club, Tesco, Sainsbury's, Morrisons and many more.

The fayre raised a fantastic figure of £486 which will be used to support the Ageing Well Project in Barry.

GF

PACT meetings

DEAF PACT at Station 20, Barry Fire Station, Thursday, December 4 at 6.30pm.

DYFAN PACT at Highlight Park Community Centre, Stirling Road, Barry, on Monday, December 8 at 7.30pm.

LLANDOUGH PACT at the Royal British Legion on Monday, December 8 at 7pm.

PLYMOUTH PACT at Brockhill Community Centre on Wednesday, December 10 at 7pm.

SULLY PACT at the Cricket Pavilion on Thursday, December 11 at 6.30pm.

If you have any issues that are affecting your quality of life but are unable to attend a meeting, contact 101 or log onto www.ourbobby.com.

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Posy's second Welsh National winner

IN another extract from my book, *The Welsh Grand National – From Deerstalker to Supreme Glory*, published by The History Press at £12.99, we learn how the Vale's Posy Lewis won her second Welsh Grand National...

David Nicholson made it three wins in a row when landing the 1961 race on little *Limonali*. Having been successful the previous year on *Clover Bud* and the year before on *Limonali*, he had the choice of riding either and, as luck would have it, he picked the right one.

Limonali in winning the race for the second time gave a brilliant display of jumping in blinding rain and in doing so beat two other Welsh horses *Chavara* and *Clover Bud*.

According to the racecard, *Limonali* was trained by Mrs Lewis' son Ifor and when *Limonali* had won in 1959, her brother Clem Morel was down as the trainer. But almost everyone knew that the horse was trained by his owner.

Women in those days were not allowed to train. Mrs Posy Lewis, who

ON AND OFF THE TURF with Brian Lee

received a great ovation in the unsaddling enclosure, recalled: "We had prayed for rain and it came just in time. *Limonali* was kicked by another jockey's stirrup in the Hennessy two years before, and he literally had a chip on his shoulder which moved about beneath his skin until it eventually attached itself to the shoulder bone again."

In the race itself, Stan Mellor jumped *Chavara* to the front six fences from home, but immediately David Nicholson had *Limonali* at his girths. From then on the race developed into a great duel with *Limonali*, who never put a foot wrong throughout the stamina-sapping journey, jumping fractionally ahead at each of the remaining fences.

A mistake by *Chavara* at the third last did not improve Mellor's chances of overtaking *Limonali*, who produced a good turn of speed to pass the winning post five lengths clear. *Clover Bud*, this time ridden by David Mould, ran on gamely to finish a further two lengths back in third spot with *Knockanacunna*, ridden by Michael Scudamore,

finishing in fourth and last place.

Result: First, *Limonali* (I Lewis) 10-11-12 David Nicholson; Second, *Chavara* (G R Owen) 8-11-13 Stan Mellor; Third, *Clover Bud* (G Llewellyn) 11-11-7 David Mould; 9 ran. Distances 51.21.101. SP 7-4 fav., 3/1.8-1. Going very soft. *Limonali*, bay gelding by Hyder Ali-Limonette.

You can e-mail your news/views to brianlee4@virginmedia.com or phone him on 02920736438.

PENARTH First XI made the short trip to Treforest to take on old rivals Whitchurch looking to bounce back from a heavy home defeat to league leaders Wotton-under-Edge, but instead ran into another offensive barrage.

Although the visitors held their own through the opening phases, it was clear early on that Whitchurch had the advantage going forward, and two quick goals midway through the first half merely hinted at what was to come.

Penarth reduced the

deficit through a Chris Baker set piece drag-flick, but Whitchurch hit back almost immediately to restore their two-goal lead as they again found a spare man going forward.

This pattern was repeated twice more before the interval as goals from Matt Birch and Dave Watkins appeared to have pulled Penarth back into the game, only for the home side to go down the other end and restore their advantage, eventually going into the interval 5-3 ahead.

Having reshuffled

their line-up to play four in defence, Penarth remained optimistic that they still had a chance of getting something from the game, but it soon became apparent that the win was only going one way.

Seemingly able to find a spare man every time they attacked, Whitchurch regularly overwhelmed the Bears defence, adding four unanswered strikes to their half-time total.

With their usual passing game breaking down, Penarth never really looked like finding a way back into the

match, and were left to lick their wounds as they dropped to ninth in division ahead of three crucial home games either side of the Christmas break.

PENARTH 'A' 3 WHITCHURCH F 0
Still stinging from their own heavy reverse against Whitchurch 'D' the previous weekend, Penarth's 2nd XI hosted the same opposition's 'F' side at Barry with revenge on their mind.

Right from the start, it was clear that the home side, despite again missing key players

filling in for the firsts, had the upper hand and, with Matt Noble back between the sticks, produced a more confident performance than of late.

Although Noble was called on to protect the home goal on more than one occasion, including two fine close-range stops, Penarth gradually eased away from their rivals, opening the scoring before the interval.

With youngsters Sam Salisbury and Rory Vizard providing energy up front, Penarth's veterans were able to steal the glory as further strikes from Derek Wooding and Freddy Thomas – the latter a net-buster from all of a yard out – ensured that the home side emerged with three vital points that keep them firmly mid-table in a division where four points separates sixth from 12th.

League games continue this weekend (Saturday, December 6), with the 1st XI hosting mid-table Cirencester at Barry Sports Centre and the seconds heading west to take on cellar-dwellers Bridgend at Pencoed.

Further information can be obtained from club secretary Dave Stevens at: d.stevens81@hotmail.co.uk. **MC** **CL**

Almost 10,000 die in Great War battle

THE speaker at last week's Barry Men's Forum was Gavin Davies.

He gave a detailed account of the events leading up to, during and after the Battle of Jutland.

It was the largest naval battle and the only full scale clash of battleships in the First World War. The Royal Navy had been blockading the German sea ports to prevent food supplies getting to Germany.

The British Fleet was commanded by Admiral Sir John Jellicoe, Admiral David Beatty and Rear Admiral Sir Thomas Evans. The German fleet was led by Vice Admiral Reinhard Scheer and Vice Admiral Franz Hipper.

Several blunders prevented

the Royal Navy from destroying the German Navy. The Allies had captured a vital code book and intercepted messages, describing the Germans' plans to lure, trap and destroy a portion of our fleet.

Due to this information, our fleet had sailed before the German fleet left port.

On paper, the British fleet was superior in the numbers of ships and guns, but in practice the Germans out-maneuvred and out-gunned them. A 15 inch gun can fire a one ton shell up to 18 miles, but it takes two minutes to hit the target. With both ships travelling at 25 knot speed and being 10 miles apart depending on their course and speed, only around two per cent hits were recorded.

There were several factors which changed the outcome of what should have been a foregone conclusion. The German ships had superior range finders. The Royal Navy relied on signal flags and flashing searchlight, using Morse code.

They were hampered by the heavy fog, during the battle; several vital messages were missed, lost or ignored. This allowed the German fleet to escape and return to port.

During the conflict, 14 Royal Navy ships and 11 German ships were damaged or sunk and 6,780 British seamen and 3,050 German seamen lost their lives. This action allowed our naval blockade to continue.

It caused the German Navy to

rethink their strategy and limit their attacks on merchant shipping by only using submarines (U-Boats).

It was estimated that 290,000 German people died of starvation during the blockade. The Germans' action of indiscriminately sinking merchant ships with their U-Boats caused America to declare war on Germany in April 1917.

On Thursday, December 11, Dr Tom Sharpe will be speaking on the topic of 'Captain Scott's Expedition'.

The Forum meets at Trinity Presbyterian Church Hall, Aberystwyth Crescent, every Thursday morning at 10.15am. New members are very welcome. **MC**



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Noteworthy mixed voice choir.



Maesteg children's choir.



Organisers Helene and Wayne Forwood (left).

Bethel Community Church, Maesteg

I AM pleased to write that the concert in the church last Friday was a sell out.

It was organised by Helene and Wayne Forwood, members of the Salvation Army, to raise money to donate toys to disadvantaged children in the area. The music was provided by the Salvation Army band whose members had travelled from as far afield as Swansea in the west, and Cwmbran in the east.

The entertainment started with a member of Maesteg Children's Choir, Oliver Forwood, carrying a lighted candle from the rear of the church to the stage while singing 'I'll Be a Light' joining the choir which then sang 'Somewhere in My Memory'.

The choir was conducted by its musical director Enid-Sian Hughes accompanied by Rhian Jenkins.

There was then a complete contrast with four young ladies known as the Swansea Citadel Timbrel Brigade, whose movements and timing as they produced music from their tambourines was outstanding. They gave two performances.

There were carols sung by the congregation, including 'Mary's Boy Child', 'The First Noel', and 'Hark the Herald'.

The Maesteg Children's Choir appeared on stage twice more and, after the last occasion, Enid-Sian

NORTH BRIDGEND NEWS

A message for all readers in the north of Bridgend who would like to have items included in the community news columns of THE GEM:

If you wish to submit reports on any social activity in this region, please contact me.

I am very approachable and will endeavour to include every newsworthy subject.

Contact details: CLIVE MITCHELL

1 Tyn-Y-Coed Close, Sarn, Bridgend CF32 9NQ

TEL: 01656 725399

email: tynycoed1@yahoo.co.uk



Hughes sang a solo piece of 'O Holy Night'.

The versatile Noteworthy mixed voice choir, under its musical director Ryan Wood, accompanied by Rhian Jenkins, also appeared on stage three times finishing with the Benediction. Chorister Rhian Hughes was outstanding in 'Silent Night'.

The stars of the evening were the choristers of Plasnewydd Primary School. Their dictation was so clear and their movements as they sang the various carols was outstanding. They received a standing ovation when the choir had completed its repertoire.

During the above concert there was a talk by Tony Mullins, an official of the charity who stated that there were 10 members on the committee in Maesteg, and the organisation was always seeking volunteers, both for helping on the committee and at various events. Since its formation in the Maesteg area it had raised over £400,000.

On December 19 at 7.15pm in St Michael's and All Saints church, Maesteg, there will be a Christmas concert with entertainment provided

by Noteworthy, Affinity, a ladies choir from Cardiff, and international opera singer Laura Parfitt.

Tickets are £7 and all proceeds go to cancer research. Major Derek Jones gave a brief outline of the functions carried out by the organisation in the concert. Every night it provides accommodation and a bed for 3,300 homeless persons. Over a year it helped find 600 missing persons and reunite them with their families.

It has another function, known as the purple bus, which provides food parcels and clothes to the needy, and the requirement for this service by these people had increased by 40 per cent between 2013 and 2014.

Local choir
CÔR Meibion Maesteg a'r Cylch (Maesteg and District male choir) has had a busy month, starting with a short concert at the Afon Argoed Country Park. The choir then supported the charity for MS by performing in a concert at Treleas Primary School with another Maesteg choir 'Take Note', with one chorister Aled Williams

appearing on stage with both choirs.

The end of the month culminated at the Millennium Stadium, Cardiff, when the choir joined with Caldicot Male Voice Choir and Côr Meibion Penybont Fawr, to form a choir of 140 voices under the baton of Dr Haydn James at the Wales versus South Africa International rugby match. Providing the music was the Regimental Band of the Royal Welsh Band.

Côr Meibion is organising a Christmas buffet dance on Friday, December 12 in Maesteg Celtic Rugby Club, the music will be provided by the group 'Brother in Law' and members of the public are welcome.

Tickets are £5 and can be obtained from any chorister or by contacting Rob on 07969 203251.

Côr Meibion rehearses in Maesteg Celtic Club on Thursday evenings from 7pm and new members will be most welcome.

St Mary's Church
BRIDGEND male choir will be performing in a concert at St Mary's Catholic Church, Ewenny Road, Bridgend on Friday, December 5 at 7pm.

The venue has formed a bond between the choir and church going back over many years. The concert will also feature a children's choir from St Mary's RC Primary School. Tickets (£5) are available at the door.

On Wednesday, December 10 at 7pm the choir will be performing in a concert at the Tabernacle, Meadow Street, Pontycymer. There will be two children's choirs also featured, both originating from Garw Valley primary schools.

The compere for the evening will be BBC newswriter and presenter Huw Edwards, who was born in the Garw Valley. Tickets are £5 at the door, proceeds for the church.

Ogmore Vale Primary School

THE acting headteacher would like to thank everyone who donated towards the

school's effort in raising money for the BBC's 'Children in Need' which totalled the magnificent sum of £286.

On Friday, December 12 the school is holding an awareness day for the Save the Children charity at which it is hoped the pupils will be wearing a jumper.

Llansantffraid concert

OGMORE Valley male voice choir is once again helping local communities to raise money by appearing in a concert at St Bride's Church, Llansantffraid tomorrow (Friday).

The choir at present is also busy rehearsing for the concert next April in the Royal Albert Hall starring in 1,000 Welsh Voices.

The choir rehearses in its own premises at Canolfan Bethlehem Centre, Commercial Street, Ogmore Vale, on Thursday evenings from 7pm. New members and visitors will be most welcome.

Cefn Cribwr community event

I HAVE been informed that residents will be able to enjoy an adaptation of Dylan Thomas's 'A Child's Christmas in Wales' in the community centre (Green Hall), on Tuesday, December 9, at 7pm, performed by the Lighthouse Theatre Company.

Organised by Cefn Gwyrd, there will be performances by a number of local artists, including Bethan Nia, Brychan Jones, Marc Weinzwieg, Alun Battick and the Cefn cast of Under Milk Wood.

Tickets can be obtained from John on 01656 742348.

Welsh Wildlife Trust

TO celebrate Christmas there will be a Santa's Grotto at Parc Slip nature reserve visitor centre, Tondur on Saturday/Sunday December 6-7 between noon and 3pm. Booking is essential on 01656 724100 at a cost of £5 which includes a gift for the child.

On Saturday, December 13 between 10am and 12 noon, youngsters aged up to 13 will be able to enjoy functions organised by the Wildlife Watch, such as exploring the nature reserve to observe the extensive range of wildlife.

ME support in Glamorgan

IT is estimated that some 250,000 people in Britain are affected by M y a l g i c Encephalopathy or 'ME', also known as chronic fatigue or post-viral fatigue syndrome.

On the first Monday of the month, advice, friendship and support can be obtained at Llanishen Community Shop, City Temple North, Llangranog Road, Llanishen from 11am to 12.30pm. For more information contact Robert Goodman on 07914 950219.

Tynryheol Primary School, Llangeinor

THE pupils chose 'Respect' as the value for this week and certificates have been presented to the pupil who has best displayed this value consistently

throughout the week.

This week's winners are: Class 1 - Menna Fielder-Hobbs; Class 2 - Logan McCormick; Class 3 - Shannon Matthews.

The PTFA has been working hard to raise money for the school, and has arranged that the Christmas fete will be held in the school hall on Friday, December 5 from 2pm until 4pm. Any donations of soft toys, full bottles for the bottle bag game will be welcome.

With the Richard Price Centre, it has organised a pantomime *Jack and the Beanstalk* to be performed in the centre on Friday, December 5. Doors will be open at 6:15pm with the show starting at 7pm. Tickets will be £2.50 per child and £3 per adult.

They will be on sale in the shop, the school and the centre. All proceeds will be shared by the school and the centre.

Tondur Wesley Methodist Church

MRS Susan Pilsher would like to

congratulate the following pupils, Sophie Barrett, Lillie-Eve Cronin, Chantelle Dewson, Sam Thomas and Sophie Tipper whose entries for the anti-bullying calendar were highly commended.

Lillie-Eve's entry was also chosen to be included in the calendar. They attended the prize giving ceremony on Wednesday, November 26 at Heronsbridge School.

The school will be raising money for the charity Save the Children on Wednesday, December 10. It would like everyone to wear something 'Christmassy' to raise awareness of the charity.

Tondur Wesley Methodist Church

THERE will be a carol concert on Wednesday, December 10 at 6.30pm. The Tondur Primary School Choir is taking part and everyone is welcome to come along and enjoy the evening.

MP visits Alzheimer's Society new offices

BRIDGEND Alzheimer's Society moved to new offices in May this year and Bridgend MP Madeleine Moon dropped in to see them recently.

The move from Glanrhyd Hospital to Bridgend Industrial Estate has meant that they have modern, larger premises which are more accessible. The new offices are in the old Health Authority Building in North Court Road.

Mrs Moon said: "I had a cheque for the Bridgend Alzheimer's Society after completing a parliamentary questionnaire and handed it over to Kerry Phelps, the service manager as a donation towards their activities."

Kerry and her team explained that having received an award from the Big Lottery Fund, they are now providing a 'Voice and Choice' advocacy service and befriending service.

Also, another new support project 'Try Something New' for people living with dementia introducing gardening, IT skills, cooking,

armchair aerobics and arts and crafts had been introduced.

Mrs Moon said: "It was good to hear that their other projects, the Feel Good Cafes in Bridgend and Porthcawl, were well established, giving an opportunity for dementia sufferers and their friends and carers to relax together and share information."

"Singing for the Brain was also going well, a stimulating and fun experience held in Noltun Church Hall in Bridgend. Kerry also told me about 'Dementia Friends' which was launched in February in Wales."

"This encourages staff in businesses, hotels, voluntary organisations and doctors' surgeries to undertake a training course which gives them a better understanding of dementia and how they can help support their clients."

To find out more details about the Bridgend Alzheimer's activities go to the website: www.alzheimer.org.uk - Services in Bridgend & District.

Ice rink fun at Maesteg

AN outdoor ice rink will bring an extra sprinkling of festive magic to Maesteg Market Square until Sunday, December 14.

Organised by Bridgend County Borough Council and Maesteg Town Council, and part-funded by a Welsh Government

grant, the ice rink will be open from 10am - 6pm on Monday to Thursday, 12pm - 8pm on Friday, 10am - 6pm on Saturday and 10am - 4pm on Sunday.

Admission will cost £1.50 for a 20 minute skating session. Group bookings can also be made and for further details please call the town council on 01656 732631.

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Athletic honour their Welsh players



ABOVE: Rhys Webb and BELOW: Scott Baldwin with their Welsh caps.



Mark Davies and Adrian Durston.



Matthew Morgan.



Lee Byrne pictured on a previous visit to Bridgend Athletic RFC.



BRIDGEND ATHLETIC recently held a dinner at the clubhouse with Wales and Lions player and broadcaster Brynmor Williams as guest speaker to honour their five ex-players who have gone on to win senior Welsh caps.

The club presented memorial plaques commemorating the dates of their first caps to the players. Adrian Durston, Rhys Webb, Scott Baldwin and Matthew Morgan were present at the dinner; unfortunately Lee Byrne was unable to attend due to rugby commitments with the Dragons. Lee was separately honoured back in 2005 at a similar function.

This is a remarkable achievement for a club only founded in 1972 and who gained full WRU status in 1983/84 season. The clubhouse is actually the birthplace of the legendary Welsh and British Lion Dr Jack Matthews, who formally opened it in 1982.

The club's success is mainly down to the introduction of a mini and junior section in 1991 to complement the youth and provide a conveyor belt for the senior side that have climbed their way to the Championship mainly using home grown talent; all five players came through this system.

Adrian Durston was

the first player from the club to be capped against Japan. Lee Byrne, with 48 caps, is the most capped player and also the club's first British Lion. Rhys Webb, Scott Baldwin and Matthew Morgan are still part of the Welsh scene.

Rhys and Scott are permanent features now in the Welsh squad and have made significant contributions in the autumn internationals. Matthew, after receiving top reviews for his performances on the recent Welsh tour to South Africa, unfortunately broke his ankle in pre-season and was unavailable for selection - otherwise it was possible that three players from the Athletic could have featured in a single international game.

Maybe this will happen in the future with Rhys now established as the first choice scrum half in Wales and Scott pushing Richard Hibbard for a starting place, or at least coming on from the bench.

Congratulations to Rhys and Scott who both played significant roles in Wales' only second victory over South Africa in a century last weekend. Next stop the Six Nations followed by a World Cup.

With the monkey off their backs in defeating a southern hemisphere side let's dream that the club can honour Welsh World Cup-winning players at this time next year!

AB

Barbarians take on Highlands!



A mixed team of Pencoed RFC players past and present, under the name Bosely Barbarians, had a warm-up game against Halse Highlands before the Wales versus New Zealand game recently. ALL PICTURES BY JUILE HANCOCK

Sports under-9s edge Tonyrefail

BRIDGEND SPORTS under-9s travelled to Tyn y Bryn Park, Tonyrefail for an away fixture on Sunday morning.

The sides had met on two previous occasions at Bridgend already this season, with both fixtures being close run affairs - a 5-5 draw in September followed by a narrow 7-6 victory for the Sports, more recently.

The weekend's match followed those previous meetings. It was competitive, with both sides having some skilful runners that were able to beat defenders to score. The Sports however, ran out victors by 9 points to 7, due to a good team effort and all players were prepared to contribute to the tackling.

In the first of three 10 minute sessions, the Sports started well enough, but when they were penalised for the use of a hand off on a run, Tonyrefail took full advantage and soon worked the ball to their pace man Sam Talbot who raced down the touchline to score.

Joel Rogers responded for the Sports after play was taken upfield from the restart. Both sides then defended well for the first quarter. The Sports broke the deadlock with a second try for Joel Rogers, following good running and support play involving Iestyn John, Callum Lewis, Dylan Morgan and Alex Stimpson.

Tonyrefail levelled immediately, with a switch move from the kick off that confused the away defence for a try out wide.

Bridgend Sports were determined to hit back and almost scored when Thomas Coles fed Dylan Morgan but the latter was penalised for a hand off. Good tackling from Thomas Coles thwarted two Tonyrefail attacks and secured possession again for the away side.

Now attacking with turnover ball, space was found for Cian John who raced down the wing to score.

A fourth Bridgend Sports try followed when Tyron Davies offloaded to Thomas Chick; he changed the angle of attack to score in the try in the centre of the goal area. Sam Talbot scored again for Tonyrefail just before the end of the first session to make it 3-4 to the Sports.

Tonyrefail started the second session as they had finished off the first, with a try to level as they caught the Sports napping.

The levelling of the scores fired up the Sports and some solid tackling from Ben Fisher, Dylan Morgan, Thomas Coles and Ieuan Pilliner helped turned the game.

Tries followed, the first from Alex Stimpson who took the ball on the blind side from a scrum; he jinxed past two players to score. Dylan Morgan extended the Sports lead to 4-6, as he claimed the next score, after solid work

from Mason Balmer and Dewi Worrall.

In the third and final session, the Sports took the lead on three occasions but Tonyrefail clawed it back each time.

The Sports constantly probed the home defence with runs from Iestyn John, Joel Rogers, Callum Lewis, Dylan Morgan, Thomas Chick, Dewi Worrall, Tyron Davies and Thomas Coles.

Joel Rogers scored three tries for Bridgend as he along, with Dylan Morgan, constantly probed the defences, Joel Rogers often beating defenders, by turning them inside then outside whenever he was put in space by his fellow players.

Although guilty of bunching on occasions in attack, Bridgend Sports had secured the win as all players are beginning to contribute to the wider collective defensive effort.

Dylan Morgan was the stand out tackler; he was well supported in this aspect of play by Alex Stimpson, Ben Fisher, Callum Lewis, Iestyn John, Ieuan Pilliner, Mason Balmer, Thomas Coles, Thomas Chick and Tyron Davies.

The young players earned their reward for focusing their energies into play on the pitch and working together on the pitch. This week the blue and whites have a home fixture against the blue and blacks of Llanharan.

BRIDGEND BRIDGE CLUB

THE results for Bridgend Bridge Club for recent events are:

Wednesday, November 26: First, Irene Thomas and Graham Jones; Second, Marjorie Morris and Bill Turner; Third, Rob Forman and Alan Heath. Winners on handicap - Irene Thomas and Graham Jones.

Friday, November 28: First, Dian Jones and Pat Cogbill; Second, Andy Robertshaw and John Whateley; Third David Newman and Barrie Waite. Winners on handicap - Dian Jones and Pat Cogbill.

Regular club nights take place on Wednesdays and Fridays at Nolton Church Hall at 7pm. We try to start at 7pm so it helps if people arrive at least 10 minutes early.

On Thursdays from 2pm to 5pm, also at Nolton Church Hall, there are gentle bridge sessions for the less experienced bridge players where assistance is readily available.

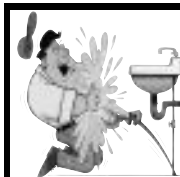
The best placed improvers for November 27 were Christine Davies, Teresa Griffiths, Colin Lewis, Stuart Davies, Leila O'Hagan and Diane Reynolds.

There are lessons on Thursdays at 11am, also at Nolton Church Hall - these are primarily for beginners and those who have played some bridge and would like to improve either or both their bidding and card play.

It is still possible to book a place on the course - for further information contact John Evans on 01656 880372.

DN

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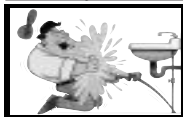
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Public Notices

GOMIN OGWR
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OGMORE COMMON
Community of Ogmorre
Vale of Glamorgan Council

Mae Cyngor Bro Morgannwg wedi gwneud cais i'r Gweinidogion Cymreig am ganiatâd o dan Adran 38 Deddf Tiroedd Comin 2006 i weithio ar ddam bach o Gomin Ogwr. Cynigir y gwaith fel rhan o gynllun i ailosod Llwybr Arfordir Cymru a darparu llwybr mwy diogel nad yw'n rhy agos i Ogmorre Road/B4524.

Dyma'r gwaith a gynigwyd:

1. Gwastatâd i'r llethr bresennol drwy: a) godi a chadw'r tyeirch a godwyd b) gloddio'r wyneb moel hyd at ddwyfnder gwastad; c) osod ymyl bren ar bob ochr, a defnyddio'r pridd a dynnwyd i adeiladu clawdd hyd at yr ymyl bren ar y llethr i waered; ch) roi rhwyll borfa dros y cyfan er mwyn ei gynnal; d) ailosod y tyeirch a'u sicrhau wrth y rhwyll â phinnau. Mae'n bosibl y bydd angen rhagor o dyweirch.

2. Bydd y gwaith yn effeithio ar ddam o dir comin 58 medr o hyd ac 1.5 medr o led.

3. Er mwyn ymestyn y llwybr ymhellach i'r gogledd-ddwyrain, bydd angen mynd â cherbyd gwaith ar draws y comin gan ddefnyddio ffordd dros dro y gellir ei rollo.

Bydd y gwaith yn cael ei wneud yng nghornel ogledd-ddwyrain i'r comin ac i'r de ddwyrain o dafarn y Pelican rhwng cyfeirnodau grid SS 8819 7674 (pwynt A ar y map) ac SS 8822 7679 (pwynt B ar y map).

Cewch weld copi o'r ffurflen gais a map sy'n dangos y gwaith arfaethedig yng Nghyngor Bro Morgannwg, Swyddfa'r Doc, Heol yr Isffordd, CF63 4RT rhwng 9.00am a 4.00pm yn ystod yr wythnos (ac eithrio ar Ddydd y Nadoig, Gŵyl San Steffan a Dydd Calan). Bydd copiau o'r ffurflen gais a'r map ar werth yno am £4.50 yr un.

Dylech anfon eich gwrthwynebiadau neu'ch sylwadau drwy lythyr neu neses i Arolygiaeth Gynllunio Cymru, Adeiladu'r Goron, Parc Cathays, Caerdydd CF10 3NQ neu wales@pins.gsi.gov.uk ERYN 9 Ionawr 2015. Ni chaiff llythron sy'n cyrraedd yr Arolygiaeth eu trin yn gyfrinachol. Bydd yn rhaid anfon copiau at yr ymgeisydd a nhefyd at rai eraill sydd â diddordeb yn y mater o bosibl.

Dyddiedig 4 Rhagfyr 2014

Cyfarwyddwr Gwasanaethau Datblygu, Swyddfeydd y Dociau, Heol yr Isffordd, CF63 4RT

The Vale of Glamorgan Council has applied to the Welsh Ministers for consent under Section 38 of the Commons Act 2006 to carry out restricted works on Ogmorre Common CL32. The work is proposed as part of a re-alignment of the Wales Coast Path in order to provide a safer path route away from Ogmorre Road/B4524.

The proposed works:

1. To level the current sloped gradient by: a) lifting & retaining existing turf, b) excavating exposed surface to a level depth; c) timber edging on both sides, use excavated soil to embank to sloped timber side; d) install grass mesh for stability, over which; e) existing turf re-laid back & pinned to mesh. Some supplementary turf may be needed.

2. The area of common land affected will be 58 metres in length by 1.5 metres wide.

3. The onward route to the north east of this section will require works vehicle access across the Common, using a temporary rolled road surface.

The works will be located in the north east corner of the common and south east of the Pelican Public House, from Grid Ref: SS 8819 7674 (point A on map) to SS 8822 7679 (point B on map)

A copy of the application form and map showing the proposed works can be inspected at the Vale of Glamorgan Council, Docks Office, Subway Road, CF63 4RT, between the hours of 9:00am and 4:00pm on weekdays (excluding Christmas Day, Boxing Day & New Year's Day). Copies of the application form and map may be bought there at a cost of £4.50.

Any objections or representations should be sent in writing ON or BEFORE 9th January 2015 to the Planning Inspectorate Wales at Crown Buildings, Cathays Park, Cardiff, CF10 3NQ or wales@pins.gsi.gov.uk Letters sent to the Planning Inspectorate cannot be treated as confidential. They will be copied to the applicant and possibly to other interested parties.

Dated 4th December 2014

Director of Development Services, Docks Offices, Subway Road, Barry, CF63 4RT

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Family Notices

Dear Gordon,
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and when we awake,
we shall be together forever.

My love

Rosandra

ROSANDRA

THOMSON

MURRAY

December 4th 1945 -

June 11th 2011

EVANS

Gaynor Mary (nee Stevens)

Many thanks to everyone who attended Gaynor's funeral and for all messages of sympathy and support. For her to be remembered with such affection is a great comfort to all her family at this sad time.

ADAMS

Garfield David Howell

Peacefully on November 26 at Princess of Wales Hospital, Bridgend, Garfield aged 94 years of Cowbridge, beloved husband of the late Edna, much loved father, grandfather, great grandfather and great great grandfather.

The family would like to thank the carers of Bluebird and staff of AMU for their love and care.

EUSTACE

James Philip

Passed away at his home on November 22nd. Jim of Kenson Close, Rhosce. Dearly beloved husband of the late Dorothy May Eustace, much loved father of John, Roger and Preston, loving grandfather of Greg, Alastair, Stephen, Deanne, Warren, Aimee, Lucy and Kate.

Resting at A.G. Adams & Son, Tynewydd Funeral Home, Gladstone Road, Barry, until his funeral service and committal at the Cardiff & Glamorgan Crematorium, Barry, on Wednesday, December 10th at 12 noon. Family flowers only but donations in lieu of flowers to the RNLI.

HILL

Gordon Seth

On November 23, Gordon of Bonvilston, beloved brother of Betty and the late Mary, a dearly loved uncle and great-uncle.

Resting at the Private Funeral Home of W James & Sons, Ffônnon. Funeral Tuesday December 9, service 1.45pm at St Cadocs Church, Llanfarcfan followed by private interment in Llantrithyd Churchyard. Family flowers only may be sent to the Funeral Home.

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DAVIES

Marie Eileen

(of Llantwit Major)

Passed away at Brocastle Manor Care Home

on 30th November 2014 aged 75.

She will be sadly missed by all her family and friends.

Funeral service at Barry Crematorium on Friday,

December 12th at 11.15am. By request family

flowers only. Donations to The Dementia Society

may be sent to Tim Jones, Funeral Director,

Pontyclun Funeral Services, Clun Avenue, Pontyclun

CF72 9AG. Tel. (01443) 224358.

Stephenson

John Gwylum

Suddenly at home on 27th November, John, aged 84 years, sadly passed away. Devoted husband of Rose. Dearly loved dad of Delme and Gwent. Loving uncle to Michael and his family. Tadcu will be dearly missed by all his family and friends.

Resting at The Vale Funeral Service, 181 Court Rd.

Barry until his service at Cardiff & Glamorgan

Crematorium on Friday, 12th December at 3pm.

Immediate family flowers only, donations if desired

can be made at the service in memory of John to The

British Legion. Funeral arrangements entrusted to

Nicola Ellis 01446 407962.

HOPKINS

Dilys May

Dilys' family would like to thank all the family and friends that attended her funeral. A special thank you to the staff of Milsom House who cared for Dilys for the last year.

Thank you to Reverend Rachel for a lovely service. Reunited at last with Glyn, she was a really special lady, forever in our hearts.

SMITH

John Francis

Suddenly on November 30 at Princess of Wales Hospital, Bridgend, John of Llantwit Major, beloved husband and friend of Sandy, loving father of Susan, much loved grandfather of Richard.

Resting at the Private Funeral Home of W James & Sons, Ffônnon. Funeral Thursday, December 11, service 12.45pm at St Illtud's Church, Llantwit Major, followed by cremation at Coychurch Crematorium, Bridgend at 2.15pm. Please wear something red. Family flowers only may be sent to the funeral home, donations in lieu, if desired, to British Heart Foundation, c/o J James, 11 Ffônnon Road, Rhosce, Vale of Glamorgan CF62 3DZ.

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Veronica xxxxx



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LLANTWIT MAJOR Cavaliers would like to thank Illtud's 216 and their staff for a lovely end of season meal at which we celebrated our winning of the SWCA Division Four 1st XI championship.

We would also like to thank our sponsors: Simon's Plaice, Anthony Brown Estate Agents, chiroprapist Roz Couzens, Accesstraining.co.uk, Red Dragon Computers, Llantwit Major Autocentre, Jaipur Bangladeshi & Indian Cuisine, Nathaniel and The Cooperative Travel, for their much appreciated sponsorship of the club in our promotion winning season.

DMC



Welsh Deaf team in action at Llantwit Major rugby club

PHOTOGRAPH
by ANDY WICKS



ABOVE: Wales Deaf team played against Welsh Academics at Llantwit Rugby Club recently and Andy Wicks was on hand to capture the action. The sponsors included Specsavers and Brecon Carreg who help fund the development of Deaf Rugby in Wales. The final score was Wales Deaf 14 Welsh Academics 33.

Vale MP on target at archery club



A familiar face popped into visit Caerau Dragon Bowmen on one of their practice evenings recently.

Alun Cairns MP chatted to the archery club members, found out a little about the equipment used and the growing popularity of the sport before having a go himself at target archery.

Caerau Dragon Bowmen are a target archery club that shoot twice a week at St. Richard Gwyn RC High School in Barry.

"This venue offers us excellent facilities both indoor where we can shoot on an 18 metre range and outdoor (weather & light permitting of course) where we can shoot up to 90 metres," explained Simon Miskin, club chairman.

The club has both junior and senior

sections and encourages the development of the sport and individual archers with instruction being offered by level 1 and 2 Archery GB coaches.

"We regularly have visiting archers from other clubs one of which is a former British international archer and British champion. Archery is a truly inclusive sport and our club is accessible to people of all ages and abilities," commented head coach Andrew Ellis.

If you fancy trying archery then bookings are being taken for beginners lessons - the club will provide all the equipment needed during the six week course and we can offer advice on purchasing your own bow; for enquiries please contact Andrew Ellis on 02920 598062.

SM

Local golf club looks to a nine-hole future

ST ANDREWS MAJOR Golf Club has announced that it is putting its efforts into providing a top class nine-hole golf course to complement its popular driving range.

It is a decision taken against the background of a slow down in the growth of the game in the UK as a whole.

Back in the boom days of the sport, many clubs had waiting lists, and also joining fees for prospective members. Now, around the UK, the competition is much fiercer - both for members who pay subscriptions and for visitors who pay green fees.

St Andrews Major on Coldbrook Road East near Barry - long regarded as a well-manicured layout that is a great place to learn the game, recently took the decision to sell off some of its land and continue as a nine-hole course.

Club professional John Hastings told The GEM that the club regarded this as a positive move that would enable them to offer an excellent golfing experience - particularly for relative beginners.

He told The GEM: "This will be a genuine nine-hole course - most definitely not a pitch and putt.

"At around 2,850 yards, there will be two par threes, one par five and six par fours - making it a good test of golf for any standard of player."

He added that the green-keeping staff would be concentrating on keeping the nine holes to a high standard.

He said: "We have always been regarded as a well-manicured course that is good to play on all year round, and this will definitely still be the case."

Mr Hastings said that the club felt they had identified a "niche in the market" for people who did not want to commit to an entire afternoon playing a sport.

Modern life has changed people's lifestyles, and the green fees of £8 for nine holes and £15 for 18 are designed to acknowledge this change.

He added: "I think that if golf was invented today, nine holes as the standard course would make a lot more sense!"

Other facilities at the course, including the driving range and catering in the clubhouse will continue as usual.

The club will continue to offer competitive membership deals, and John Hastings' lessons at the driving range will not be affected.

Sully bowlers keep up the winning run

SULLY senior bowls team, having won their first three games of the new season against Taff Ely, Islwyn and Cardiff, travelled to Mountain Ash last Wednesday to play Cynon Valley in the next round of the Clubs Championship.

The Sully team are playing with tremendous confidence which is shown by the fact that they have gained 38 points out of a possible 42 and are heading the league table.

The match commenced with Sully taking a narrow lead 21-14 at the end of the fifth. Having found the pace of the green Sully began to take control, opening up a 28 shot lead by the 10th end.

The rinks skipped by Dave Snelling, Brian Griffiths and Fred Phillips were well ahead but Ken McLeod's rink, who were behind early on, recovered to take a two shot advantage at this stage.

As the game progressed the Sully rinks remained in total control, edging further

ahead by the 15th end, 70-40. The trend continued to the final ends with Griffiths and Phillips winning comfortably along with McLeod's rink, who romped away to win by 17 shots having been behind early on.

The rink of Dave Snelling, who was leading comfortably up to the 13th end, lost six consecutive ends, dropping nine shots to fall two shots behind with two ends to play.

The Sully rink picked up one shot on the next end leaving the rink still one behind playing the final end; they then found themselves three shots down with

Snelling left to bowl his last wood. He played a weighted bowl into the head which fortunately edged the jack to other Sully bowls, leaving them holding three shots for a win, ensuring two extra points.

The final score was 94-53 in favour of Sully, taking the full 14 points with a 41 shot victory, remaining top of the league with two games left against Caerphilly (Islwyn) and Newport.

FP

Cowbridge RFC back in action

IT seems like an age since the last league game for Cowbridge, so it's a great relief to everyone at the club that we finally have a game this Saturday, away to Canton.

Canton are just two places above Cowbridge in Division 3 East Central A. Despite some disappointing results in October there are signs that the boys are not far

away from turning the season around and this Saturday is an ideal opportunity to start moving up the table.

There are no further games before Christmas but what a game to finish off 2014 - Llantwit Major at home on December 27.

Back to this Saturday, the youth BC team are away to Llandaff and the youth BD team home to Cardiff Quins. So take break from Christmas shopping and come along and support your team!

RV/RK

The under-7s thank Bryn Hafren School

THE mini football section in the Vale has grown so large in the past two years, the number of venues is a major issue.

Introducing a year 1-2 year band for under-7s has seen this age group expand to over 30 teams. Parkwood Community Leisure kindly allow the under-7s access to Barry Astro, but this was getting very crowded and teams had to sit out and wait their turn.

After speaking with Mr Davies from Bryn Hafren girls' school, we now have two venues for this age bracket.

At this age group, we play four-a-side with a futsal ball, with the emphasis being purely on fun and plenty of touches of the ball and the past weekend saw Cogan, Dinas, Cadoston, Cowbridge and FC Narberth play their first games on the astro.

The feedback from players, coaches and parents was all very positive, so thank you Mr T Davies and Bryn Hafren!

LS

The GEM welcomes your news, reports and other items of interest - email us at: gemeditorial@tindlenews.co.uk

Point-to-point's strangest races - PART THREE



Henry Blake (right) on Prince Haven 11.

THE maiden race at the Penttyrch Hunt evening meeting at St Hilary in the Vale in 1975 was a controversial one to say the least.

Prince Haven 11, owned and trained by Dillwyn Thomas of Laleston, was judged to have head-heated with Mr A Taylor's Swedish-bred Quip. However, there were those - including the bookmakers, who had paid out over Prince Haven 11 - who thought Mr Thomas' horse had won outright.

To be fair to the judge I should point out that the winning post at St Hilary was a long way from the natural grandstand where racegoers viewed the races. But more fuel was added to the fire when it was discovered that far from being a maiden (a horse which has not won a race) Quip had won, among several other races on the flat, the Danish St Leger!

But amazingly, Weatherbys ruled that these wins did not render Quip ineligible for maiden events. In all of Quip's previous races it had started at odds of 33-1 or more but on this occasion Quip had been well backed and started at odds of around 6-1!

There was a sensational finish to the men's open race at the Tredegar Farmers meeting at Lower Machen in 1970. The late Katie Gaze's Frozen Dawn, an odds-on favourite, jumped the last fence with a good lead over Mr M C Watt's Silver Too.

But Frozen Dawn, still full of running, was suddenly eased by her apparently over-confident rider, Henry Oliver, just before the winning post, with the result that Silver Too was able to catch and pass Frozen Dawn.

To the crowd's amazement, however - and mine as I was on the haycart alongside

him - the judge saw things differently and gave a head verdict in Frozen Dawn's favour! As for Frozen Dawn's rider, he was called before the stewards who cautioned him for going to sleep!

The postscript to this story is that just three days later Frozen Dawn won the coveted Lady Dudley Cup at the Worcestershire Hunt races.

One of the strangest two-horse races I have ever witnessed was between Mr Cyril Hughes' Appianky and Mr Glynne Clay's Rookey in the members' race at the Monmouthshire at Llanvayle in 1971.

Before the start, I had heard a rumour that the odds-on Appianky had been a very sick horse and had been close to death earlier in the week. Well, Appianky certainly ran like a sick animal, always struggling throughout

and finishing streets behind Rookey, who had made every yard of the running.

Whether Appianky was put down shortly afterwards I cannot say. All I know is that Appianky was reported as 'dead' in the following year's Hunter Chasers and Point-To-Pointers annual.

One 'strange' race that I did not witness - it happened a year before I was born - took place at the Pembrokehire Hunt Point-To-Point at Scoveston Fort in Pembrokehire back in 1935 in the adjacent hunts' race.

A spectator remounted a fallen horse called Seldom Seen and riding with great gusto got up on the line to beat Sir Thomas Meyrick's Haverfordwest by a short head - but spoilsports that they were, the stewards disqualified him!

BRIAN LEE

The Barry darts league round-up

DURING the open week the Dockers lost their unbeaten record in a rearranged away match against the Poachers; the Poachers came out comfortable 15-6 winners.

With a full set of fixtures last week, the only remaining unbeaten side, the BFC Allsorts, were playing away to the Mariners. The home side pushed the Allsorts all the way, finally going down to a narrow 10-11 defeat.

During the match, John Morgan (BFC Allsorts) hit a 180 while Colin Berryman (Mariners) hit a 180 and a 120 out shot.

The Poachers go to the top of the league after a 15-6 win away to the Plastics with Terry Overton (Poachers) hitting a 102 out shot. The Billy Ghosts drop

down to second place after losing 7-14 in an away game to the Cwm Talwg.

The Dockers climb into third spot after beating the Hell Raisers 20-1.

In the remaining matches, The Park Weasels won 16-5 away to the Caddy Cons Loungers, while the Tynewydd won 13-8 at home to the Raiders. The Runways traveled away to the Wanderers where the Wanderers pulled off a 13-8 win.

On a sad note, the thoughts of everyone within the league are with the family of Gareth Davies, who sadly passed away last week.

Gareth was a long standing member of the Mariners 66 team where he played alongside his father and brother. Our condolences go out to his family and team mates at this sad time.

RL

MMG hold on to win top of the table clash

AFTER a four week break, MMG knew they had to be ready for this top of the table clash against Castle.

The reverse fixture earlier on in the season was a close game and MMG expected nothing different this time around. The game started slow with the conditions and the pressure getting to both teams.

After a sloppy first 25 minutes MMG started to gain control of the game and the midfield trio of Rhys Jenkins, Courtney Aviet and Michael Fallas really began to apply pressure to the Castle midfield.

The MMG defence were coping well with the direct tactics of Castle and rarely looked under threat and, when called upon, goalkeeper James Spear offered solidity.

The first goal came from a fantastic headed pass from Michael Fallas which was finished off well by Anthony Connell who lifted the ball over the onrushing goalkeeper.

MMG kicked on from this and were causing Castle no end of problems. A great corner fell to Dimitri Fallas and he swivelled to keep the ball in play and a poor tackle from the Castle defender meant that MMG had the chance to double their lead from the penalty spot.

Anthony Connell stepped up and coolly despatched the penalty for his second goal of the game and MMG went in at halftime knowing that although they were in control of the game, it would only take one goal for Castle to be right back in it.

The second half started with the instruction to keep it tight and not

allow Castle the opportunity to work their way back in. The defence of Paul Eveleigh, Miles Harvey, James Carling and Tim Lednor worked tirelessly to make sure that nothing was getting through.

With good chances from Dimitri Fallas, Josh Mazey and Anthony Connell, it was only great work from the Castle goalkeeper that stopped MMG adding to their lead.

This seemed to spur Castle on and they started to grow into the game. They almost got to the scoresheet when a cross was whipped in from the right and a firm header from the Castle striker was goalbound, but a fanatic strong arm from James Spear turned the ball around the far post.

Castle did manage to half the deficit when a counter attack allowed the left winger to break free and cross for the striker to prod home.

For a 10 minute spell after the goal, Castle had their tails up and were trying everything to equal the scoreline. Two changes were made by MMG with Simon Colston replacing the tiring Josh Mazey and Barrie Cosslett replacing the hardworking Rhys Jenkins.

The two oncoming players added considerable height and presence to the team and they quickly settled in to the flow of the game.

The rest of the game was played out frantically with end to end football. Castle were throwing everything at the MMG defence but they stood strong and the game finished in a 2-1 victory.

Man of the match was awarded to Michael Fallas for a brave and hardworking performance.

JM

THE LLANTWIT MAJOR JUNIOR RUGBY ROUND-UP

LLANTWIT MAJOR RFC under-14s made it three wins in a row after a superb display against Pontyclun this past Sunday.

It followed a dominant 48-20 victory over local rivals Barry and a brilliant comeback at Fairwater to defeat them, with the score finishing 31-27.

The team have worked tirelessly so far this season racking up some fantastic wins and the confidence within the squad is growing. The team will hopefully take their winning mentality into Sunday's game away to Rumney which will be a fantastic opportunity to make it four in a row and finish the year with a bang.

Anyone wishing to join rugby we currently have a few spaces available - whether you're new to the game or fancy giving it a go in a new and friendly environment please contact team manager Brian Henson on 07976 87474.

Squad: Cameron Miller, Cameron Sims, Dominic Henson, Tyler Chandler, Haines, Owen Evans, Brandon Hughes, Connor Treadgold, Rhys Roberts, Owen Hodge, (c), Jos Harris, Ben Wilson, Kyle Cates, Liam Padmore, Jake Fairchild, Dylan Carroll, Ellis Harding, Luc Williams, Iwan Robinson-Booth,

Luke Birnage, Dylan Holloway.

On Sunday, Llantwit Major under-9s travelled to the capital to take on Fairwater; the game was divided into three 10 minutes.

A sluggish start by Llantwit saw some simple tries conceded, and the team trailing by four tries, but the dogged determination of the St Illyds contingent saw them come in at the break even at 4-4, with tries by Tom Lamerton, Lewys Ingram and two by Carwyn John.

Fairwater continued to dominate and at the end of the second half, Llantwit were trailing 7-6. Further tries for Llantwit were scored by Thomas George and Brandon Harris.

Following a speech by coach Dave, a rejuvenated Llantwit were able to turn things around. A very physical 10 minutes saw Fairwater unable to match the determination of Llantwit, with a man of the match performance by Kristian Greedy, scoring five great tries. Final score Fairwater 9, Llantwit Major 11.

Men of the match were Kristian Greedy and Brandon Harris for a great all around display both in attack and defence.

Squad: Kian Barnett, Carwyn John, Marcus Hammer, Thomas George, Thomas Lamerton, Lewys Ingram, Brandon Harris, Corey Cox, Kristian Greedy, Flynn Barry, Thomas Jones, James Cavney and Dafydd Morgan.

ML RFC Llantwit Major under-7s travelled in to Cardiff on Sunday to play Fairwater following their much improved match last week at Barry.

Coaches Andrew Mitchem and Ian Godsell were hoping that the team could raise their game once again and were not disappointed.

With many of the usual players missing Llantwit still fielded two sides to accommodate Fairwater's request due to their player numbers; however had no reserves to call upon.

Fairwater marked out two very different sized pitches with one being almost senior width! This meant two very different games as the larger pitch allowed a more open game, more suited to the runners but also caused fatigue to the teams.

The tagging has certainly improved in recent weeks forcing the opposition into errors and turnovers, and Llantwit continued to do

this. The first matches ended with a 11-5 win for Llantwit and a 11-11 draw on the larger pitch.

After a few minutes break the teams went back in to battle with a 11-2 win for Llantwit and a narrow 9-7 loss in Fairwater's favour on the larger pitch (40-27 to Llantwit overall). The weary players still managed a large smile at the end before demolishing multiple hotdogs at the clubhouse!

Top try scorer on the day was Kyle Pagano with an unbelievable nine! Evan Boulton managed to bag his first try for the club, having come mighty close to scoring in almost every match so far this season.

Other tries for Llantwit came from

Dylan Godsell (4), Maverick Jennings (4), Joel Harris (3), Thomas Collins (7), Bledwyn Mitchem (5), Tomos Davies (2) and Jos Bourner (5).

The coaches awarded the certificates for player of the match to Kyle Pagano and Aaron Moe - well done both!

Llantwit now have two more games for this year, both at home, before a well-earned Christmas break.

Team: Aaron Moe, Kyle Pagano, Thomas Collins, Jos Bourner, Joel Harris, Evan Boulton, Maverick Jennings, Dylan Godsell, Bledwyn Mitchem, Lloyd Morgan and Tomos Davies.

IG

Bridge results

NOVEMBER results for Penllyn Bridge Club:

Thursday, November 6 (18 pairs) - 1st Jo Isley & John Lord 63.92%; 2nd Marion & David Stephenson 60.8%; 3rd Helen & Mike Ruttley 59.38%

Thursday, November 13 (20 pairs): 1st Judith & Colin Nunn 61.87%; 2nd Joyce Holloway & Ian Duglinson 61.36%; 3rd Marion & David Stephenson 60.35%.

Thursday, November 20 (22 pairs) - 1st Lou & Phil Edwards 66.14%; 2nd Judith & Colin Nunn 57.5%; 3rd Moyra Cuthill & Norma Barber 54.77%.

Thursday, November 27, Robert Brown competition (17 pairs) - 1st Cath Domanic & John Hunter 65.59%; 2nd Sally Kennedy & Allan Evans 63.64%; 3rd Mary & Hugh Thomas 62.14%.

CN

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New suite helps pupils witness the fitness!

COWBRIDGE Comprehensive School's physical education department has launched a number of new programmes and initiatives in conjunction with the completion of the new strength and conditioning suite.

The school has constructed one of the best strength and conditioning facilities in the country which will enable its students to access facilities and coaching that will help them realize their full potential in their respective sports.

The suite contains four



bespoke lifting racks and platforms, a free weights section, a 15 metre sprint track, a cable pulley station, gymnastic rings, a dumbbell area and a conditioning room which comprises treadmills, bikes and rowing machines. In addition to the Cowbridge Comprehensive School

Rugby Academy, the school is now providing programmes and opportunities for students in all key stages.

Over 20 girls and 20 boys across key stage 3 and 4 are regularly attending 'the Excellence Group' sessions that are being run by former pupil and head of strength and conditioning

at the school, Oliver Trotman.

During these sessions, Oliver is prescribing individual routines to students to help improve their performance in over 15 different sports.

Oliver is also running an open key stage 5 girls-only fitness club which takes place in the

strength and conditioning suite on a Thursday after school.

Attendance at this club has been outstanding and new faces are always welcome. Students on the school rugby programme use the facility from 7am to 8pm on most mornings and results at the recent WRU central testing day have seen our students place in the top two teams in the country with virtually every test.

The facility has also been welcomed by many staff at the school who regularly train in the slots that are available from 4.30pm onwards.

Furthermore, the physical education department, in conjunction with the school 5x60 officer, has also set up a key stage 4 girls-only club on a Wednesday after school.

This session has proved so popular that there has been a need to add an additional slot to cater for the number of girls who expressed an interest in taking part.



Cowbridge under-9s in action

COWBRIDGE under-9s arrived in Pontypridd with a string of impressive performances behind them.

Cowbridge were slow to start in game 1 with a porous defence allowing Pontypridd to rattle up two quick tries.

Cowbridge finally managed a spell of concerted pressure which allowed Harry New to cut through and score from close range.

Pontypridd maintained their strong running style through midfield and extended the lead to 3-1 at half-time.

A further Pontypridd try early in the second half looked a bridge too far for Cowbridge, but a fight back was on.

Jacob Robson burst through midfield, off-loaded to Osian Bruce who provided a sublime pass to Ollie Gale who crashed over to score.

Ollie was once again in on the action, making good ground and finding Osian who cut a swathe down the left wing for a try in the corner.

A Pontypridd score looked to have kept Cowbridge out of reach, but Osian scored his second to set up a frantic finale. Alas Cowbridge could not just find the equalising try they needed. Final score 5-4 to Pontypridd.

Cowbridge stepped up a level in game 2 with L Thomas powering through the centre and creating space for Ollie to race up the right

and score in the corner.

Cowbridge defended their lead valiantly but Pontypridd managed to score to make it 1-1 at half-time.

The second half opened with an opportunist piece of skill by James Collingridge, who intercepted and sprinted in from the halfway line.

Pontypridd then scored twice either side of a thoroughly deserved try by Sam Jackson, who had worked tirelessly in both matches.

With the score all square the scene was set, and it was Joe Arentsen who pounced on a loose pass to give Cowbridge victory. Final score 4-3 to Cowbridge.

PS

Cowbridge darts league round-up

ON Tuesday, November 25, the Hare and Hounds hosted the semi-finals and the final of the Mixed Doubles.

The Mixed Doubles Champions are Steve Simmonite and Ann Daily (Edmondson A) who defeated Mark Dowling and Daisey Repke (Edmondson C) 3-0 in the final.

Present league standings after eight matches, are: Llanharry (57 points), Highwaysman Inn and Edmondson B (45), Edmondson A (36), Hare and Hounds (31), Farmer's Arms (28), Edmondson C (26) and Old Post Ladies (18).

Next Tuesday, December 9, there is

a full schedule of league matches, the last before the Christmas break. The Edmondson C hosts the Old Post Ladies, the Edmondson B hosts the Edmondson A, the Hare and Hounds hosts the Farmers Arms, and Llanharry hosts the Highwaysman Inn.

All matches start at 8.15pm and spectators are welcome. Note all teams can register new players until the New Year so if you wish to play darts this season get in touch.

For further information e-mail Paul at cowbridgedarts@gmail.com; up-to-date information can be found on the website: www.dartsapns.co.uk.

PJT

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- 07 **FORD Fiesta 1.2 Style Climate 3-Dr** In met-blue, 79,000 miles **£3,495**
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£4,995



12 CITROEN C3 Picasso 1.6 Diesel VTR+
In silver with sat-nav, alloys etc
£7,995



Titles decided at Llandow Kart Club finale

LLANDOW Kart Club's summer championship reached a thrilling climax on the coldest race weekend of the year, with titles being claimed across all classes.

The Bambinos opened the action with both Nathan Browning and McKenzie Douglas returning to pick up from where they left off in October. Both improved on their lap times and duly received their certificates and trophies.

The Cadet field was split almost equally between Honda and IAME runners and produced some typically close racing. With Shay Keough holding a commanding points lead in IAME, the rest had been fighting over second in the standings for some time, and both Max Fenlon and Thomas Nippers spared nothing in their efforts.

Nippers claimed heats two and three after Keough had opened the day on top, but it was Fenlon who came through to claim the final by four-tenths. Nippers edged Keough by a similar amount to end the

day second overall, but it wasn't quite enough to claim the same position in the championship.

Things were a lot closer in the Honda category, with Ferguson brothers Stuart and Oscar doing battle with George Alp-Williams and Austin Maddocks for overall honours.

Although Stuart headed a Ferguson 1-2 in the opening heat, it was all Alp-Williams from then on as he claimed the remaining heats and the final, with Louis Harvey also in the mix. Again, it wasn't quite enough as Stuart garnered enough points to ensure that he added the title to his Celtic Challenge crown.

Brother Oscar also finished ahead of Alp-Williams in the final reckoning, with Maddocks, third on the road in the final, ruing dropped scores as he filled fourth spot overall.

With no Comer Cadet runners since August, Shayne Clarke was already champion, heading fellow IAME converts Fenlon and Connor Kearney in the end-of-season table. Despite entering the final round with a comfortable points advantage, Kristian

Prosser was in no mood to cut his rivals any slack and, after seeing closest rival Patrick Hill win heat one, went on to take victory in each of the day's remaining races. Hill finished second on the road in the other two heats before Ben Cutler beat him to the line in the final, but still had enough of a points cushion to finish as runner-up overall, ahead of Jack Bligh and Alex Wilkins.

With the Junior Max title already sewn up, Rob Ellis opted to sit out of the final event in favour of an early taste of life in the senior category, and Tom Croydon and David Spiller duly took up the cudgels, battling at the front of the field in each of the day's four races, with Tom Ford finishing third each time.

Despite Croydon's four wins, however, Spiller prevailed in the battle for second overall, with Ford again the next man up.

Minimax was also bereft of its champion with Riley Phillips absent, and that allowed Ethan Ling to complete a clean sweep of victories. Jem Hempworth provided some opposition in heat one, and continued to lead the chase throughout, ahead of Jack Fordham, Kieran Clarke and novice Liam Griffiths. When the points were tallied, however, it was Clarke who had enough to claim third in the final standings.

Things were shared a bit more evenly in Junior TKM, where Alex Rees, Yousuf Ashraf and Ryan Edwards took the heat wins. The final, however, also went Edwards' way, as he headed Rees across the line by a little over three seconds, with Hugo Holmes edging Ashraf for third. Edwards' intermittent appearances

meant that he was not in title contention, however, with Rees coming out on top of a season-long battle with Ashraf. Sam Johns claimed third place overall, ahead of Holmes.

Danny Griffiths already had the Senior Honda crown in his pocket before the final round, but appeared intent on celebrating with a clean sweep of wins on the day. He did not have things all his own way, however, and the warning signs were there in the heats as Cristiano Nardone finished within half a second of the lead each time.

Having made his point, Nardone then came out on top in the final by a similarly-scant couple of tenths, as his weekend haul - plus the dropped scores rule - proved enough to push outgoing champion Paul Saunders down into third overall.

The closely-fought Senior Rotax class

opened with three different heat winners in the shape of Gareth Taylor, Zach Jones and Morgan Rose, setting up an interesting finale with the title in the balance.

Rose, who only joined the class in October, wasn't a threat for overall honours, but that didn't stop him claiming another win in the main event, while Jones headed Taylor in the scrap for second. Taylor's points, however, were enough to confirm him as 2014 champion, with main rival Dilip Singh failing to finish the final. Sebastian Hutchinson was a slightly distant third overall.

TKM Extreme made a rare appearance in South Wales, bolstering the Rotax field as Nicholas Rees and Edward Gamble shared the heat wins. Rees was back on top in the final - on paper at least - as he and Gamble were credited

with exactly the same race time! Pat Millman, meanwhile, kept a watching brief.

With the main championship now in the rear view mirror, the 2014 season will close with the annual Celtic Challenge on Sunday, December 7.

RESULTS:

CADET HONDA
1. George Alp-Williams (Project One);
2. Louis Harvey (Shark);
3. Austin Maddocks (Project One);
CHAMPION: Stuart Ferguson (Project One).
CADET IAME
1. Max Fenlon (RK/Birel);
2. Thomas Nippers (Zip);
3. Shay Keough (Zip);
CHAMPION: Shay Keough (Zip).

JUNIOR HONDA
1. Kristian Prosser (7Kart);
2. Ben Cutler (7Kart);
3. Patrick Hill (Wright);
CHAMPION: Kristian Prosser (7Kart).
JUNIOR TKM
1. Ryan Edwards (Tonykart);

2. Alex Rees (Jade);
3. Hugo Holmes (Tonykart);
CHAMPION: Alex Rees (Jade).
JUNIOR ROTAX
1. Tom Croydon (Gillard);
2. David Spiller (Alonso);
3. Tom Ford; **CHAMPION:** Rob Ellis (Kosmic).
MINI MAX
1. Ethan Ling (CRG);
2. Jem Hempworth (CRG);
3. Jack Fordham (Kosmic);
CHAMPION: Riley Phillips (Kosmic).
SENIOR HONDA
1. Cristiano Nardone

(7Kart);
2. Danny Griffiths (MS);
3. Paul Saunders (7Kart);
CHAMPION: Danny Griffiths (MS).
SENIOR ROTAX
1. Morgan Rose (Tonykart);
2. Zach Jones (CRG);
3. Gareth Taylor (CRG);
CHAMPION: Gareth Taylor (CRG).
TKM EXTREME
1. Nicholas Rees (Tonykart);
2. Edward Gamble (Tonykart);
3. Pat Millman (Jade).
BEST NOVICE: Morgan Cole (Cadet Honda).
DRIVER OF THE DAY: Thomas Nippers (Cadet IAME). **CL**

BACK TO THE ACTION FOR BARRY RFC

IT'S back to the domestic game this weekend for Barry RFC, with fixtures resuming following the autumn internationals.

The first XV travel to Taffs Well with high hopes of maintaining their unbeaten record this season, while the second, third and youth teams play at home against Rummy, Sea View and

North respectively, all kicking off at 2.30pm.

The club's Christmas draw will take place at 6pm and would all those who have still to return their tickets please do so prior to the draw or earlier if possible by leaving them at the bar.

Unsold tickets should also be returned to give us the chance to sell them on the evening.

AJ

Tim lands Towcester win

DALAMAN, trained by Tim Vaughan at Aberthyn, landed the Steve Walton Memorial 'Junior' Standard Open National Hunt Flat race at Towcester last Saturday.

Well ridden by Michael Byrne, Dalaman, the 6-4 favourite, scored by eight lengths from the David Pipe trained Kalifourchon.

NICK'S WINNER Ogmores Nick Williams, who last season booted home his 200th winner (under rules and point-to-points), landed the open maiden race (division 2) on Steve Whistance's

Railway Benefit at the Black Forest Club Point-To-Point Steeplechase at Black Forest Lodge which saw the start of the 2014-15 season on Sunday.

Railway Benefit, who has been placed over hurdles in Ireland, went off the 6-4 favourite.

Reigning Welsh champion point-to-point rider John Mathias was successful on *Raffa* in the restricted race and at the Cambridge University Hunt fixture at Cottenham; Cowbridge's James Tudor took second place on *Come On You* in the open maiden event won by *Way Over*.

BRIAN LEE

Barry Inter do themselves proud

BARRY Inter under-12s, who play in the C division, didn't look out of place playing against Cardiff Corries of the A division.

In the first half Corries didn't know what had hit them, and Inter's strength was that they never gave in. They were rewarded with a goal from Owen. Connor in goal was called upon many times and was more than a match for most, while Aron, Josh, Charlie and Dan stood firm.

Eski was unlucky not to score, his shot hitting

the bar; however the inevitable happened in the second half as Corries levelled and then added another two for good measure.

Under pressure, Inter conceded an own goal. That being said, the midfield of Iestyn, Owen, James and Jack battled their socks off.

Jacob and Eski gave it all upfront and were unlucky not to score, while substitutes Rory, Mason and Sion were solid when called upon.

Team: Connor, Aron, Josh, Charlie, Dan, Iestyn, Owen, Jack, James, Jacob, Eski, Rory, Mason, Sion. **DD**

Wolves win on their travels

DINAS Wolves under-12s continued their fine form with a convincing victory on Saturday on their travels against IMFC.

Booker, Saunders and Hewitson linked up well early on to show they are a danger to any team when they move the ball around.

Booker opened the scoring after Saunders was fouled outside the box, rifling home a powerful free kick.

Williams, Lewis and Mallum didn't look too troubled as they coped with the long balls and gave the midfield a platform to work off. Morris was called in to action midway through the first half but again dealt with it very well, showing a safe pair of hands.

Making changes every 15 minutes O'Brien, Frost, Quest and Moss showed their qualities by not diving in and showing their players where they wanted them to go and stealing the ball back countless times.

Moss and Williams offer so much protection to Booker as they both are

developing into fine defenders.

Harewood was asked to play a deeper role in the first half alongside Fifield and Doughty. The three really broke up the play in the middle.

Pereira and Quest put a great shift in down the left hand side which allowed O'Brien and Mallum time and space on the ball to play out from the back.

At the break, the away side were given simple instructions on how to attack and pushing Harewood higher allowed the forwards to press high.

This resulted in two very quick goals from Hewitson and a screamer from Booker killing the game off.

The way Dinas went about the final 20 minutes showed how hard they train and listen, as they saw the game out and added a fourth from the hard-working Harewood.

Fifield may be the smallest on the park but the captain marshalled his team like a giant in the second half.

Man of the match was awarded to Lewis and Mallum.

LS



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HARD-FOUGHT WIN OVER WORLD NO 2 COULD DO WONDERS FOR SELF-BELIEF

REACTION to Wales' gritty, historic win over South Africa at the Millennium Stadium on Saturday, brought to mind Dylan Thomas's response to a commentator on his work: "What you call ugly in my poetry is, in reality, nothing but the strong stressing of the physical".

In rugby terms the reality, sadly for the purists, is that traditional Welsh play which inspired Max Boyce to pen 'Hymns and Arias' and reached its free-flowing majesty in the golden era of the '70s, has had to reluctantly adapt as the

modern game gradually evolved into a Dylanesque "craft or sullen art".

In a professional age then, 'winning ugly' is accepted, for it is the result that matters above all – and no-one understands this better than a Kiwi head coach. Wales has now had three of them; so it is no surprise that only the second win over the Springboks in 108 years, by a heart-stopping 12-6, was masterminded by present incumbent Warren Gatland.

The first (29-19), was engineered by compatriot Graham Henry back in 1999, at a euphoric, half-completed stadium in World Cup year.

Since then, the Welsh



Dan Biggar receives his man of the match award.

team has been steadily steered out of the doldrums to a point where it can match the best in the world for 70 minutes – as underlined in the autumn games against Australia and New Zealand, but frustratingly denied the spoils, yet again, by

failing to stay error-free, clinical and composed for those crucial last 10 minutes. Last week, this column asked – 'Can Wales finally beat the 10-minute hoodoo as the clock winds down?'

In Cardiff on Saturday, the answer was 'Yes – just!' It was not stylish as in days of yore by any means, more a resolute war of attrition waged against famously physical opponents that went right down to the wire – and with the inevitable white knuckle ride when victory could have been wrenched from Welsh hands in the dying seconds.

It began, as had all three previous tests, with Wales charging out of the blocks and drawing first blood, through a penalty inside three minutes by Leigh Halfpenny, whose unerring boot would accumulate all of Wales' 12 points; followed five minutes later by a Springbok riposte – Pat Lambie equalling with the first of two penalties that would comprise his side's meagre total.

Both men failed with another attempt to put their side ahead (Halfpenny's kick scraping the post) as both packs strove for set-piece control with mixed success – and there was a surreal moment when almost every Welshman piled into a driving maul just feet from the opposing line – only to lose control and possession!

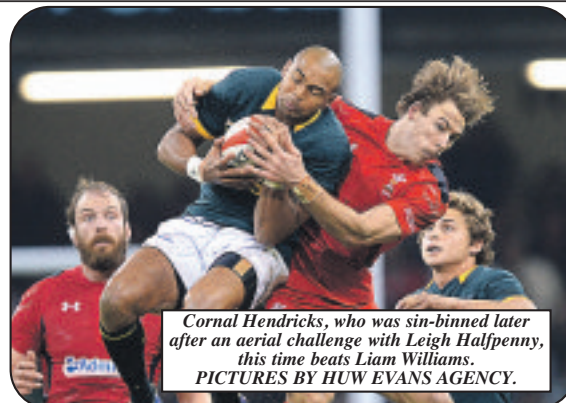
Then came another almost surreal moment when little met large, as full back Halfpenny (just over 13 stone) downed giant 19-stone second forward Eben Etzebeth with a head-on, try-saving tackle.

It inspired a renewed effort by the team as halftime neared, but the score remained locked at 3-3 – though there were clear signs, despite a malfunctioning lineout, that Welsh pack power was gaining the upper hand.

Five minutes after the changeover, Halfpenny struck with a penalty from 43 metres to inch Wales ahead 6-3, but Lambie levelled the scores; only for Welsh pressure to tell again, resulting in Halfpenny once more taking Wales into the lead with his third pinpoint shot at goal.

The increasingly hard-pressed South Africans plunged their first wave of replacements into the fray, but were almost immediately penalised at the scrum and up stepped Halfpenny to land his fourth, and last, kick as the final quarter approached.

To add to Springbok woes, a badly dislocated knee saw their popular captain Jean de Villiers depart the field on a mobile stretcher, to a round of sympathetic applause. But their problems were not over yet, as a controversial yellow card saw the tourists reduced to 14 men, which galvanised a Welsh team that had



Cornal Hendricks, who was sin-binned later after an aerial challenge with Leigh Halfpenny, this time beats Liam Williams. PICTURES BY HUW EVANS AGENCY.

been given an unexpected breather, thanks to the extended stoppage occasioned by the unfortunate injury to de Villiers.

This interlude may have been a factor in the Welsh camp not repeating the puzzling decision to send on the tsunami of replacements seen against the All Blacks that seemed to demolish what had appeared set to be a winning game plan.

When the dreaded 10 minutes arrived on the clock, it was Wales' turn to suffer a blow when Halfpenny had to leave the field, replaced by Scott Williams on the wing, with fellow Scarlet Liam Williams moving to full back.

Outstanding man-of-the-match Dan Biggar, who, with Ospreys' team mate Rhys Webb, was the fulcrum of a monumental team effort that had put Wales in

the driving seat, sought to put matters beyond doubt with a snap drop goal that slewed like a wayward excocet away from the target, only to see the ball knocked on, leading to a Welsh attacking scrum that in the end foundered on the try line.

One final moment of drama remained as full time approached – inevitably at the other end of the ground – when a long, probing kick seemed destined for the Welsh dead ball area, only for poor Scott Williams to almost give Gatland (who had turned away, unable to watch) a seizure by putting a fumbling hand to it.

Alarm bells rang as it resulted in a scrum 5 to the struggling Springboks, who could hardly believe they now had a last-ditch chance to win a game that had seemed beyond them.

Fortunately, a superhuman pack effort saw Taulupe Faletau emerge with the ball and this time there was to be no heartbreak finish as the final whistle sounded for a fully-deserved Welsh victory over the second best team in the world – and a big three 'scalp' to boot!

Though one swallow does not make a summer (or an autumn), this one result, after so many futile attempts against southern hemisphere giants, may yet come to be viewed, not only as a vital psychological fillip for this still young squad, but pivotal to the continued recovery of Welsh rugby itself – if it can be used in conjunction with the upcoming Six Nations) to instil long-sought self-belief for next year's Rugby World Cup and beyond.

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